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VOL 68

1949

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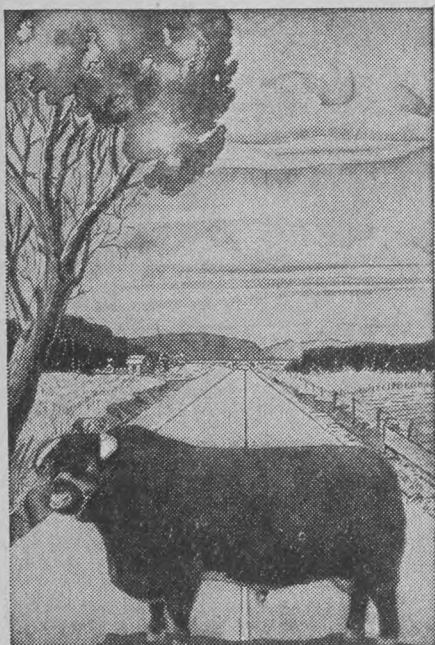
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THE Country GUIDE

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Under The Peace Tower

IT seems to me that those four by-elections which were held last month are four political straws showing which way the wind is blowing. There were four elections, one in Nova Scotia, December 13, then one in Quebec, one in Ontario, and one in Manitoba, the next week. Let's take a look at them.

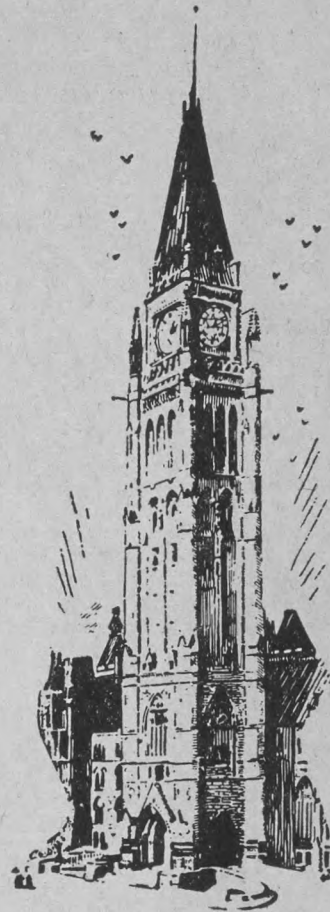
George Drew, now officially in parliament, because of his victory in Carleton, went down to Digby-Annapolis-Kings, and really put on a show. When Colonel Drew had that scuffle in front of the microphone with Major Coldwell, I thought that the Progressive Conservative candidate was done for, and I did not think that the Maritimers would relish the near-fisticuffs, particularly after the whoop-de-doo out here at Richmond, Ontario, a few days earlier. I could hardly have been more wrong. The Blue Noses loved it. The result was that this seat, which has been Liberal for almost 20 years, and in an area which has returned Hon. J. L. Ilsley since 1926, promptly tossed out the Liberals and elected a Conservative.

The Prime Minister was down there, so was Hon. Douglas Abbott, and so was the redoubtable Jim Ilsley himself. I cite all these lustrous names to indicate that the Grits positively did not take it for granted. Frankly, I assumed all along that the election was in the bag for the Grits, but of course I was wrong in that too. (I should join the Honorable Veterans of the American Election Ex-Pollsters!) I could not see how the Tory could win. For remember, there is not a single Tory in the provincial house, and there are only two out of 12 in the federal house. In other words, Drew seemingly faced as forlorn a hope as would a Bloc Populaire candidate in Wellington Crescent. So I thought. But Drew was a powerhouse and, as it turned out his candidate was a most popular guy. George C. Nowlan accordingly comes to Ottawa, while J. D. McKenzie, the Liberal, stays at home.

NOW then, what can we deduce from the by-election. First, that George Drew is definitely a vote getter, at least in the Annapolis Valley. To change a 4,500 Liberal majority in 1945 to a 2,400 majority for the Conservatives in '48 means a switch of almost 7,000 votes, and that is not only no mean feat; it is a near miracle.

Free swinging George also carried Carleton, as you well know. Here again, I thought his would-be haymakers might cost him plenty at the ballot box. Instead, every potential punch was worth a thousand ballots, every hot adjective picked up votes like a magnet does tacks.

Russell Boucher, who had resigned his seat in Carleton to let Drew have it, got in by 5,607 majority in 1945 and that was the greatest majority any candidate had enjoyed since Confederation. Drew, after a bad start, ended up with just about 9,000 majority. That's a terrific poll. Eugene Forsey, his C.C.F. opponent, put up a good fight, but his 3,334 votes



against Drew's 12,335 looked mighty sick.

Now let's be realistic. Drew in these two elections showed that he can campaign, that the crowd likes his reckless oratory, and that his efforts to bust the snoot of his opponent far from hurting him, help him. If Drew can swing one election in one province, and "up" the Conservative majority in another, he stands revealed as a real vote getter, a powerhouse campaigner. I cannot of course calculate how good he will be in White-mountain, Yellow Grass, Red Deer or Blue River, but it does seem to me that if—and remember I use the word "if"—this is any criterion, some of his opponents are in for a shock.

THEN I must add, that the C.C.F. are going nowhere in a hurry, as revealed in these two elections. In Nova Scotia, the hapless Coldwellite garnered a mere 1,894, or about 10,000 less than the Liberal, and approximately 12,000 less than the Conservative winner. Again, in Carleton, no matter how you look at it, 3,334 for the C.C.F. is not impressive against 12,335 for the P.C.'s.

Social Credit looks all but washed up in the Carleton area, with the Socred candidate securing only 455.

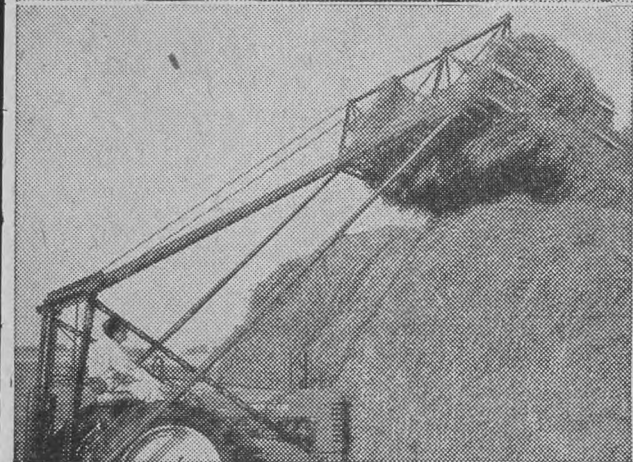
Now then, there is the disappearing riding of Laval-Two Mountains. This constituency will go into limbo, thanks to re-distribution. But the Liberal majority in the house is so skimpy, that the Grits figured they ought to make a try for one more on the government side, and so they opened up Laval-Two Mountains. This riding has been pretty much against the government since 1930. First it was Tory, then after 1935 the picturesque Liguori Lacombe spent much of his time in the Commons fighting the administration. He ran candidates against the Liberals in three constituencies in 1942, under the name of Parti Canadien.

Now in the meantime, Liber-
(Turn to page 32)

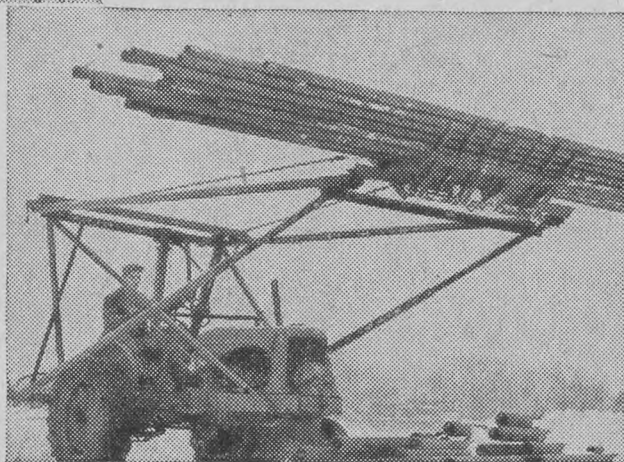
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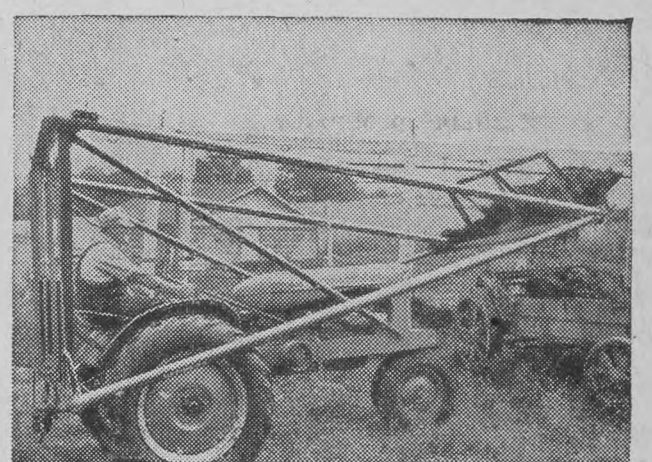
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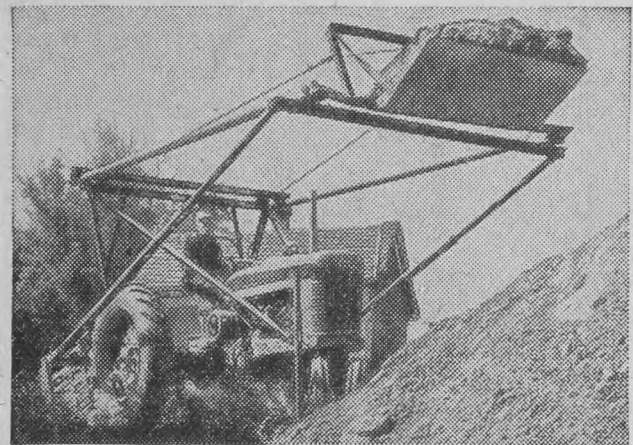
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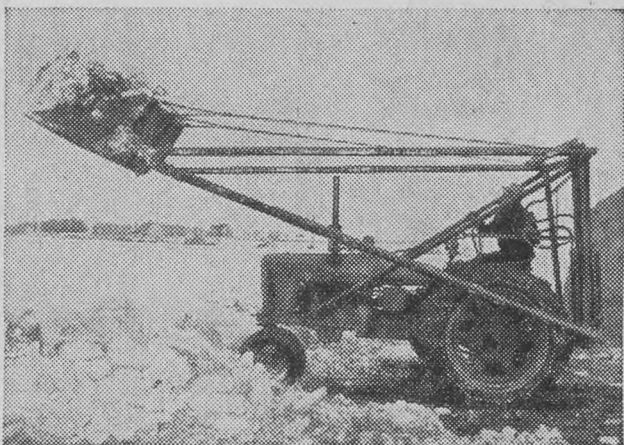
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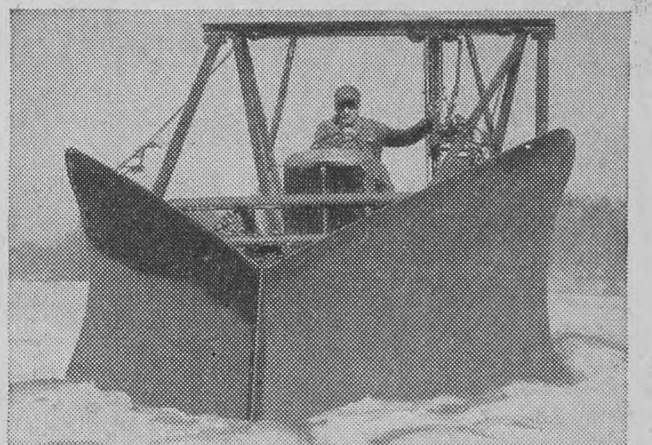
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Loading scrap iron	Trimming trees
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Loading beets	Lifting construction material
Filling dirt	Loading wool sacks
Shoveling snow	Loading cattle
Handling ear corn	Dipping cattle
Piling stumps	Opening roads
Lifting rocks	Clearing feed lots
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Hauling hay to barn	Loading lumber
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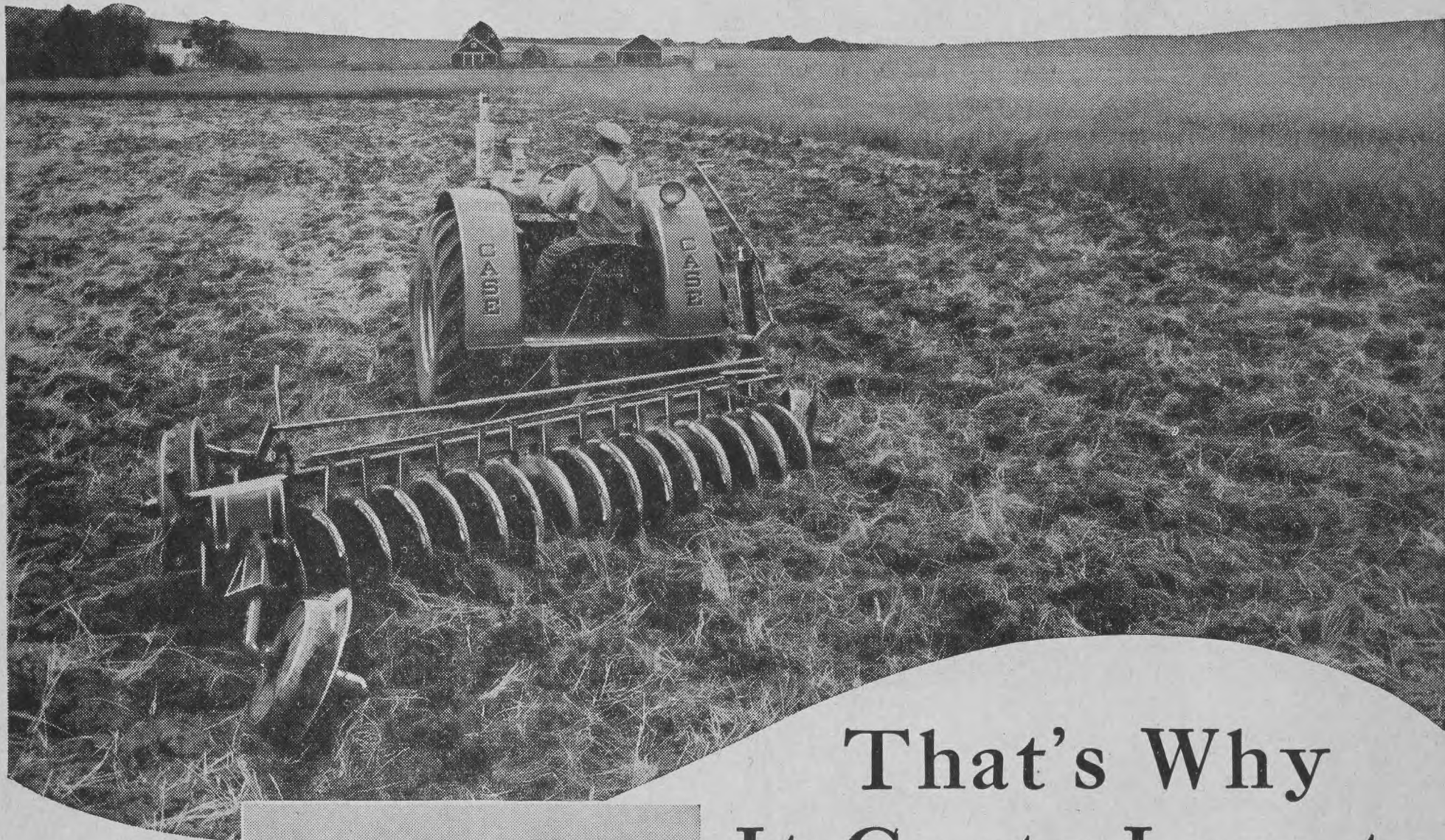
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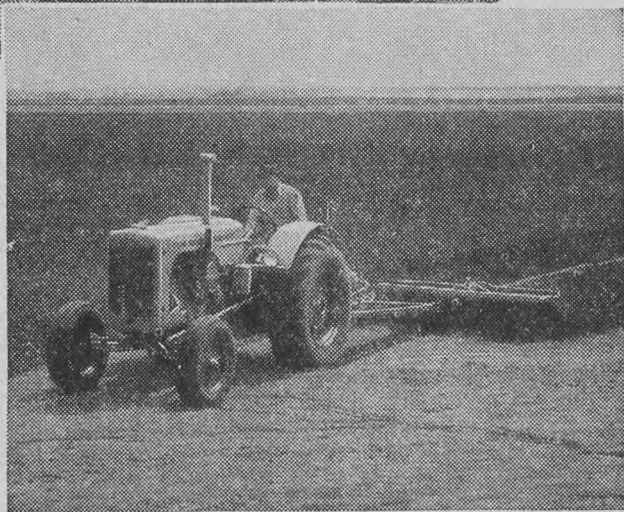
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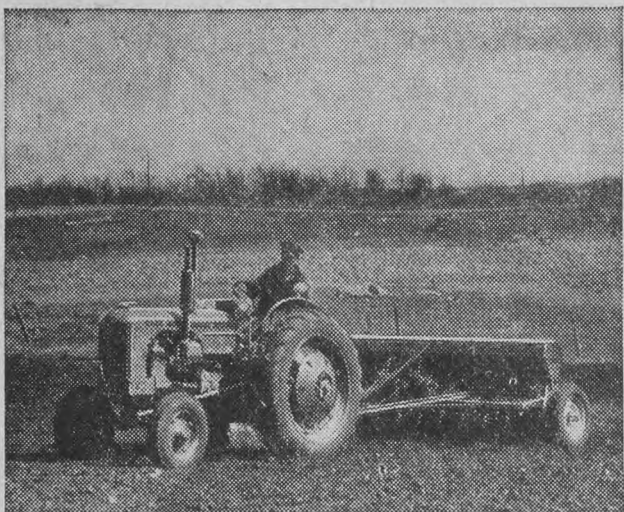
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CASE



Are Farm Prices Due To Fall?

by H. S. FRY

Unfortunately for the present case of Canada in particular, modern war has become world-wide in its effects and we are learning that Canada is not an independent country economically. No country is, not even Great Britain, which for so long dominated the world both politically and economically, or the United States, presently the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world, or Russia, the populous modern power with its vast and undetermined resources.

INTERDEPENDENCE is the great new discovery brought about by World War

II; and it was really this question—the place of Canada as an important surplus-food-producing country in an interdependent world—which was under discussion at the recent Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference held at Ottawa in December. Held annually on a full scale basis since 1942, and attended by representatives of Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, as well as by representatives of other countries, including the United States, Great Britain, Holland and Belgium (Newfoundland also this year), these conferences are impressive. They are, at the same time, bound to be disappointing to the casual observer because they do not seem to be getting anywhere very fast. Some speakers tend to make long-winded speeches about nothing in particular, and there is a cut and dried atmosphere about the whole proceeding which is apt to be deceiving. Actually the conference is a very important one to the Canadian people and especially to 700,000 Canadian farmers and their families. If there is

uncertainty in the thought and speech of the delegates, it is because Canada is feeling her way back to peace, in consort with other members of the United Nations; and if there is a cut and dried character to the conference it is because Canada is very dependent on export markets, in the development of which the Dominion Government must play a commanding part. The conference is, in fact, preceded by a tremendous amount of hard, conscientious work on the part of scores of officials at Ottawa who, for two months or more, have been engaged in preparing the facts and figures to be presented to the delegates. Before the conference can reach any decisions these facts must be gathered, presented and digested.

It is probably correct to say that the thinking of delegates at the 1948 conference was more or less governed by the fact of ECA. This is the official American alphabetical designation of what we think of as The Marshall Plan. By this plan The Congress of the United States has approved the expenditure, as gifts and loans, of 5.3 billion dollars toward the rehabilitation and recovery of the 16 European countries who, at the request of General Marshall, U.S. Secretary of State, joined together to make their needs known. The Congress, however, provided certain stipulations surrounding the administration of this fund. Of these, two will serve to illustrate the effects of ECA administration on Canadian agriculture. The first is the stipulation that in order to avoid drawing too heavily on the resources of the United States in foodstuffs and other needed materials, ECA must use some of the money to make what are called "off-shore" purchases from countries other than the United States. About 750 million American dollars will be spent in Canada by ECA during the year ending April 3, 1949. The other stipulation is that if there is a surplus of any agricultural product in the United States over and above the needs of the American people, this product may be declared in surplus, officially, after which no quantity of such product may be purchased from other countries for Europe, until the American surplus is at least substantially reduced.

(Turn to page 30)

Rt. Hon. J. G. Gardiner, left; and Dr. G. S. H. Barton.

THERE is an old law which science didn't discover for millions of years but which says that if you climb a stepladder to the top and attempt to keep on going you are bound to fall to the ground or to whatever solid place beneath you is nearest to the ground. When scientists discovered this law they called it The Law of Gravity.

When we were children at school we used to express this law a little differently by saying "what goes up must come down." Business men, farmers and economists have also discovered a sort of economic law of gravity which experience has proved operates in much the same way, although there is no fixed centre of gravity in economics as in the case of the natural law. We do know, however, that when prices have risen consistently for a period they reach a peak. From then on, they invariably decline, sometimes resulting in what is spoken of as a "crash." We also speak of these periods of extremely high economic activity followed by periods of sluggish markets and extremely low prices, as booms and depressions.

Wars are great boom builders. They represent periods when everybody is put to work in an effort to defeat the enemy. So busy does modern war make all countries engaged in it, that prices would rise to extremely high levels if governments did not control prices and "regiment" the people to produce only those products which help win wars, and do without many other products that are considered desirable and useful in peace time. When a war is over the world must try to find its way back to peace time and normal conditions. What is normal after one war is almost never normal after the next one. And each time an individual country must find its own way to a condition of economic balance for that particular country, by methods suitable to itself.

Delegates To The Ottawa Conference Study 1949 Farm Prospects.

Front Row, left to right: Dr. E. C. Hope, Economist, C.F.A.; C. T. Fitzrandolph, Maritime Federation of Agriculture; Allison Proffit, P.E.I. Federation; J. J. McCaig, Dairy Farmers of Canada; A. H. Mercer, Fraser Valley Co-op.

Second Row, left to right: H. H. Hannam, C.F.A.; W. J. Parker, C.F.A.; J. H. Wesson, Sask. Pool; Geo. Robertson, Sask. Wheat Pool; J. A. Marion, L'Union Catholique des Cultivateurs, Quebec.

Back Row, left to right: Geo. E. Church, U.F.A.; R. C. Brown, U.C.G.; L. F. Burrows, Canadian Horticultural Council.



Unusual Farmer

OUT at Dugald, Manitoba, there is an unusual farm enterprise. The operator of this farm is Vernon Briercliffe; he is a man with a lot of ideas, and a very real consciousness of the importance of a good system of farming. He thinks of farming not only today, but also of farming a hundred years from now. Even a short talk with Mr. Briercliffe will undoubtedly draw from him some comment with respect to the importance of maintaining the fertility of the soil, and the extreme importance of a farmer knowing just what he wants to accomplish, and how he is going to do it, before he pulls out to the field.

A more interesting aspect of this unusual farm and farmer may well be the stress that he places on research, and the diversity of new ideas and inventions that find their origin in Mr. Briercliffe's fertile brain. The inspiration for a large part of his constructive thought consists of 100 hives of bees. He manages his bee enterprise with the greatest of efficiency; very little is left to chance in the production of honey on this farm.

When these reporters arrived on the farm they found Vernon Briercliffe out in the bush beyond the buildings, with a tractor and chain, pulling out stumps. But he was not going to break this good, fertile land. He was just clearing out a number of strips through the trees, and was going to put the bee hives on these cleared strips next spring. The idea is to put the hives in a place where the bees will be sheltered from the cold spring winds, but will absorb the warmth of the sun, so that they will get to work a little earlier in the spring. And that is an important part of the farm policy practised here. The bees must get to work early in the spring, and continue as late as possible in the fall.

It might be interesting at this point to consider one of Briercliffe's inventions that was on the tractor that he was using to pull stumps. His idea was that when a tractor is on soft footing it will tend to slip. At the same time it will sink a little. He devised a plan that would make use of the fact that the tractor wheel sank in the soft earth, to reduce slippage. The procedure adopted consisted simply of fastening an extension rim on the outside of each of the hind tractor tires. The lugs on the extension rim do not touch the ground when the tractor is running empty; but if it is pulling hard, so that the tires flatten somewhat, the lugs will touch the ground, and provide a little additional traction. If the tractor is pulling hard on soft ground and the tires sink as well as flatten at the bottom, the lugs dig deeply, and reduce the slippage (see cut).

Not all of the ideas practised and proven on the farm can be considered here. The stone-catcher on

There is a new idea around every corner on this Manitoba farm operated by V. Briercliffe.

by Ralph Hedlin and R. G. Martin

the combine is, however, a simple and effective device. The procedure in putting it on the combine consisted simply of removing the first row of concaves, and placing it at the back. The space left empty, where the incoming grain first meets the cylinder, is used for hanging a box, the full width of the cylinder. This means that when the grain goes onto the cylinder, and is carried through the concaves it first passes over this box and then through the three rows of concaves. The box soon fills with chaff, but any stone coming into the machine is struck by the revolving cylinder and driven into the chaff in the box. The box projects down through the cylinder housing, and the bottom is a hinged door. Periodically Briercliffe opens the door and removes the chaff and small stones. After seven years of operation the rub-bars on his combine are still almost unmarked.

ANOTHER gadget on the one-man combine makes the operator's work lighter while still protecting the cutter bar. A gear box is mounted toward the back of the combine and is driven by a chain from the fan sprocket. The gear box is coupled through to the combine platform, and by swinging a lever on the front of the combine the gear box is engaged and the front of the platform raised or lowered, when an obstruction is approached. It might not be as simple as the hydraulic lift, coming into more or less general use, but it works well.

A third fixture on the combine is useful and effective. A grain cleaner is mounted on the top of the combine, but instead of running the wheat into the hopper usually used for that purpose, the weed seeds run into the hopper, and the wheat into a wagon box drawn beside the combine. A strong hitch is run across the front of the combine, to which the wagon is attached.

Another interesting invention used on the farm is designed to stop alfalfa or other light crops blowing about in the swath. Two rake wheels are connected with an axle. Slats are laid, one on each side of each spoke and bolted in position. This gives the appearance of a large drum. It is connected behind the swather so that the drum turns above the swath and forces the swathed grain into the stubble enough to keep it from blowing away. The amount that the cut grain is forced down into the stubble can be adjusted by altering the position of the slats on the spokes.

Briercliffe's bee enterprise is worth considering in some detail. Next spring he expects to be setting out between 100 and 150 hives. Last year he averaged 102 pounds of honey per hive, and sold it for a figure something in excess of 20 cents a pound, so the project is economically important on the farm.

He obtained his first hive of bees 23 years ago. At that time he was suffering from rheumatism, and the doctor, in waggish mood, told him that many



More traction is provided by steel rims set on additional hubs on the ends of the tractor axles in this unique arrangement.

people claimed that bees helped to cure rheumatism, and suggested that he get a hive and place it somewhere near the door of the house. Mr. Briercliffe does not do things by halves. He set the newly-acquired hive beside the house door. It was a major problem of strategy to get into the house, and rumor has it that all members of the household built up a resistance to rheumatism that has persisted through the years.

That small beginning grew. In that first year the local doctor, who was a bee hobbyist, had to make a few trips to the farm to give gratis advice on bee culture. His help is no longer needed. Briercliffe has developed an excellent technique of his own.

Mr. Briercliffe used to buy packaged bees every spring, but, with his inveterate desire to experiment, he carefully compared the production of the packaged bees with that of colonies he had wintered over. He found that if he made the bees break the cluster in late February he would get up to 40 pounds more honey from wintered colonies. He now buys a minimum of packages.

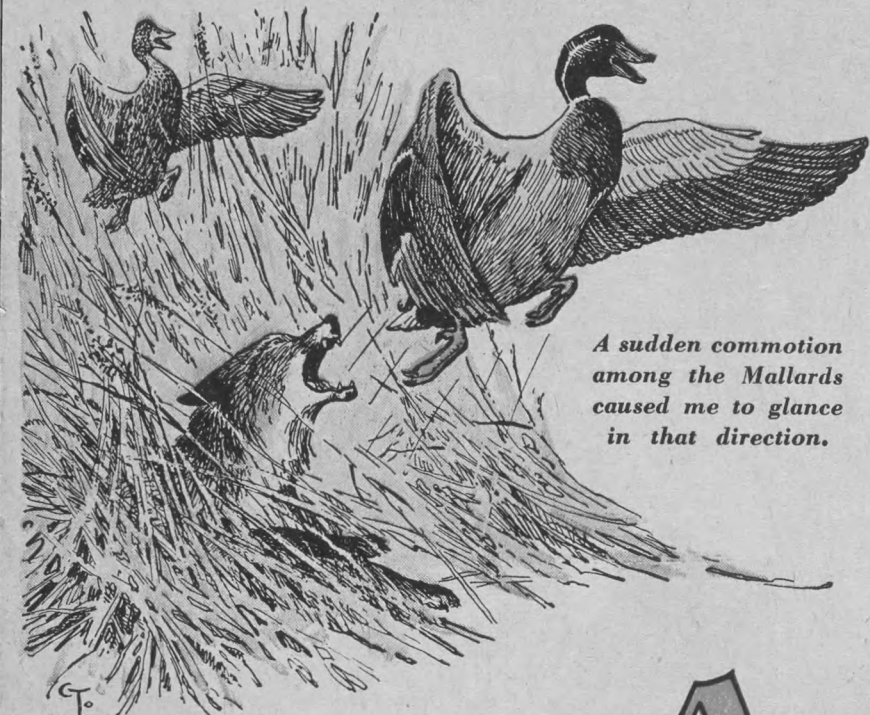
WHEN the cold weather sets in the bees are placed in a bee cellar, made for the purpose. The cellar goes about four feet below the ground, and earth is banked around the four feet that extend above the ground surface. The top is insulated with wood shavings. All air that enters the cellar is conducted in through a pipe running into the ground, and passes through a box built far below the cellar. This warms the air to above freezing point. No artificial heat is provided, and the bee cellar keeps comfortably warm—about 40 degrees. The feed for the winter consists of 18 pounds of sugar syrup, mixed half sugar and half water. Mr. Briercliffe examines the hive every two weeks, but does not disturb the cluster.

Around the end of February he feels that it is advisable to break the cluster. Experiments with breaking the cluster, and not breaking have satisfied him that it is very well worth while. The procedure is to place the hive in a dark room, and then alternately turn on 500-watt bulbs at each end of the room. The bees reach one bulb just as it goes out and the other one comes on, the result being that they fly rapidly from one end of the room to the other. It aids them in eliminating excretia and leads to healthier bees. They are permitted to fly for three minutes, after which the large bulbs are replaced with lights in or near the hive and the bees are drawn back in.

While the bees are flying the combs are examined for evidence of disease, and are (Turn to page 40)

Briercliffe uses a portable screen to keep out robber bees while he gives the hive its final fall check.





A sudden commotion among the Mallards caused me to glance in that direction.

the old cattle trails to the river, skirting fields and frozen ponds and hunting up the ravines on the more barren south side of the valley.

Three-Legs' duck hunting escapade told me how shrewd he was, and I used the best fox set possible—skunk smell, which, when buried, gives foxes the impression that trap-stupid skunks have been at the bait before them. Wherever a skunk has been, a fox will not hesitate to follow.

NEXT morning I was out on the trail before sunrise. The winter wilderness was eerily beautiful, with a raw wind blow-

to old carcasses. Under deadfalls on the river banks, where he left the bush for the frozen stream.

My efforts roused Reddy's scorn. His tracks told the story. On every trail, he merely semi-circled around the snare, then continued methodically about his business.

By now it seemed a personal feud between us. With the hot blood of youth, I wanted to get that fox more than any other fur in the valley.

When the wind was from the east, spraying snow, I set out with a .30-.30 rifle, determined to hunt him down. Always, it seemed, I could find the three-legged trail, and that frosty morning was no exception.

Probably Three-Legs watched me climbing down the barren hills, for in less than five minutes after I had taken it up, his trail cut across the frozen river to an old burnt-out basin, where rank fireweed

matted with snow could conceal him to the point of vexation. For an hour I followed him in circles. Only the steadily-falling snow, showing me his fresher prints, kept me after him.

EVENTUALLY he made for the dark bush on the uplands. All through the waning afternoon I tracked him, hoping for just one glimpse that would give me a chance to use the gun. But never once did he

A FOX IS WHERE YOU FIND HIM

by GILL SHARK

Illustrated by Clarence Tillenius

I WAS a youth then.

It was late October, and the leaves were piled in beds along the valley. It was the end of the hunting season, but late flocks of northern mallards were still gathered on the open patches of river. Even as I hit the dim lowlands that afternoon, the first snow was sucking down softly from an oatmeal sky.

Near a big horseshoe bend, I raised my gun to fire into some rising ducks, when a sudden commotion among others resting on the rapids caused me to glance in that direction.

There in the hushed valley, through the dusky film of snow, I had my first glimpse of the old red fox I was to christen Three-Legs. Fittingly enough, he was out in the shallows of the stream trying to get himself a duck supper.

I was stupidly trying to figure out how he got there (for as a rule, Reddy hates to wet his dainty paws), when I saw a number of old boughs drifting past the ducks and catching on the ice beyond the rapid. Then I began to understand.

The smart, old fox had sent those limbs downstream to lull the wary ducks into a sense of false security; then, with the thickening snowstorm, he swam downstream himself, floating behind some branches.

Ernest Thompson Seton and other great naturalists have recorded cases of red foxes employing that trick, but that was the only time I ever saw it happen.

On this particular occasion he did not nab a duck; and in the confusion of their rising, he escaped up the bank to a thick stretch of willows and old dead slough grass, where he was safe. Needless to add, I got no ducks, either.

IT was depression years then, and as a farmer's son, I had a very keen interest in the fox's pelt. Examining his tracks in the new snow, I was struck by a distinguishing characteristic; he had only three good paws. Probably he had lost the right front paw in an oversize trap. The loss did not seem to affect his ability to travel, but wherever he went, he left an indelible trademark—three good prints and one stubby one, that sometimes barely skimmed the snow.

For most of the afternoon, I tracked "Three-Legs" through spruce slopes and thickets, over the high beaver dams of the river, frozen solid by black frost, till I finally lost his trail in acres of spruce muskeg to the far west of our farm. When I got home, the snow had stopped for the evening and a full, white moon slept over the freezing lowlands.

In November, when the days were bright and cold, I laid the first of many sets for Three-Legs, as I now called him. His odd tracks were everywhere, especially around Mother's henhouse, down

ing the hoar-frost off the willows and poplars. Foxes travel an astounding distance every night, and I was sure Three-Legs would have visited one of the sets.

Crunching through the frozen eel-grass of an old slough, I observed suddenly where his trail joined mine of the previous day. Track for track, the red fox followed across the fields to my first set, under a sunken stump in a ravine. The bait was gone and the trap sprung. And so, I discovered, was every other set I had laid for him. That red fox knew traps, doubtless from bitter experience.

I kept on setting them without much faith. Possibly snares would be better, I thought. With the utmost care, I boiled them in spruce boughs, smoked them over a wood fire, handled them with clean, cotton gloves. Without disturbing a twig, I set them in all the likely haunts that Three-Legs frequented. Under fences. Between young spruce saplings. On natural approaches

Three-Legs was the most elusive fox that ever nosed out a living along the fringes of the muskeg country.

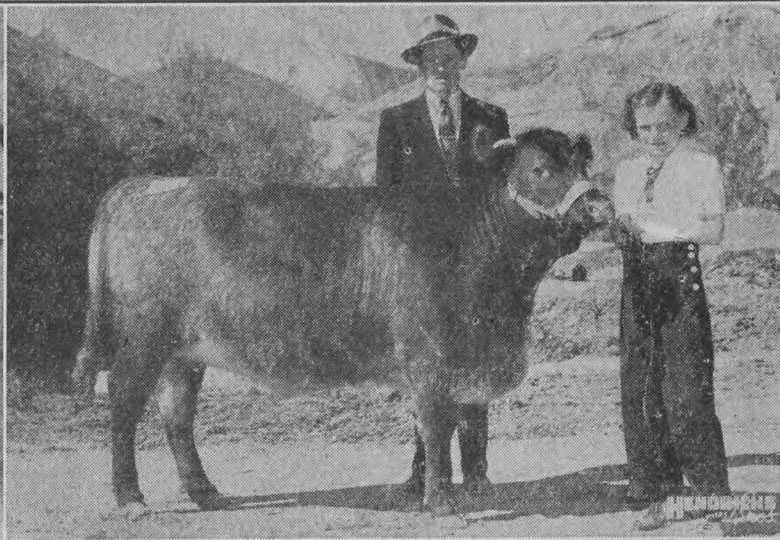
He disappeared in the snow-matted fireweed.

cross an open space or sit on top of a hill. With the freezing dusk, he hit for his favorite rendezvous—the spruce muskeg in the west. At that time, rabbits were plentiful; Three-Legs picked himself a well-beaten rabbit trail; and once again I returned, defeated, by cloudy moonlight.

For the rest of the winter, I
(Turn to page 36)



CLARENCE
TILLENIOUS
48



Above: Agnes Montgomery, Marvin Calf Club, with her brother Vance, a top club leader, and her grand champion heifer.

Left: Level Land Junior Grain Club, winners of the provincial General Efficiency Shield.



Margery and Audrey Roppel, Rockyford Grain Club, Toronto winners in 1946.

D. W. NASH declares **THESE CLUBS HAVE MADE GOOD**

Excellent leadership and enthusiastic junior club members have contributed much to the Drumheller district.

WHAT is a community? From whatever aspect we approach it community means the association of people with each other. It is the mainspring of civilization, out of which all we know of history, politics, government, science, economics and agriculture has developed. Communities are good or poor, Christian or pagan, urban or rural, progressive or unprogressive, as may be, but man does, in fact, live in communities of one kind or another. There are communities within communities, nations within a commonwealth, provinces or states within a nation, municipalities within a province, districts and localities within a municipality. When all is said and done however it is quality rather than size of community which will eventually lead to man's escape from bondage, fear and want.

Drumheller in Alberta is such a community within a larger community. Itself the largest centre in a fairly large area it is naturally the hub and to some extent the magnet attracting the interest and the attendance of a much larger number of people than its actual municipal boundaries contain. With importance comes responsibility, responsibility for the common interests of the larger community.

This is not however, a story about Drumheller. Rather, Drumheller being the largest unit of a much larger community, it is the story about what all of the units in the larger community have helped to accomplish by working together with junior farm clubs. In late summer I visited Drumheller and talked with N. F. Bell, district agriculturist; with H. F. Irwin and J. D. Umbrite, supervisors, respectively, for the Agricultural Service Boards in the Starland and Knee Hill municipalities; and with John A. MacKay, secretary of the Drumheller and District Board of Trade. We also went out into the surrounding districts and were able to visit a few club members.

Much credit belongs to the Drumheller and District Board of Trade, which since 1934 has sponsored junior farm club activities; first the Drumheller junior wheat club, then the Drumheller district junior grain fair, later junior livestock clubs and more recently the Drumheller and District Agricultural Society under whose auspices the calf shows and sales are now conducted, as well as the junior grain club fairs. The Board of Trade points proudly to the fact that "those which have excelled at the annual Drumheller and District junior grain fairs have seen their wheat samples win Dominion and Provincial championships on every occasion, as well as reach as high as seventh place at the World's Fair at Chicago in the open wheat class."

IN Mr. Bell's district there are 13 junior clubs, a larger number, I understand, than in any other similar district in the province. Clubs virtually encircle Drumheller. Grain clubs are to be found at Acme, Beiseker, Carbon, Drumheller, Level Land and Trochu. There are beef clubs in Drumheller East, Drumheller West, Livingstone, Majestic and Rumsey-Rowley; and there is a dairy calf club at Acme.

Areas served by district agriculturists, however well carefully defined, are nevertheless not walled in. Consequently, nearby clubs in adjacent districts notably those at Rockyford, Rosebud, Irricana, Orkney and even those as far away as Hanna, Craigmyle, Veteran and Consort have contributed to the spirit and competition of the Drumheller events. Some of the most distant calf clubs may, after holding an achievement day of their own, truck their calves as far as 150 miles to take part in the Drumheller Calf Show and Sale. Neighboring grain clubs have been known to invade the Drumheller Junior Grain Club Fair and go away with the most coveted prizes.

The Drumheller and District Junior Grain Fair has been held annually in October for 14 years. Two years ago winning samples from the district took

first, second, fourth, seventh and ninth prizes in the junior wheat competition at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. A year ago samples from the Drumheller Fair carried off the first eight awards in the same Toronto competition and Howard Roppel from the Rockyford club won first with his sample at the Alberta Provincial Seed Fair. Last year 18 out of 25 prize winners in the junior wheat competition at the Royal had shown at the Drumheller Grain Club Fair. Three of these were from the Rockyford club supervised by R. J. Milligan. The Rockyford club, incidentally, has provided the Alberta champion grain judging team which represented the province in national club contests for the last two years and in each year secured the provincial championship in grain judging as well. Last November at the Toronto Royal, James Miller of the Rockyford club won the high individual score in junior grain judging.

THE Annual Calf Show and Sale to be held in May will be the fourth of these annual events. At the 1948 Royal in Toronto the Hanna Junior Calf Club, under K. H. Walker, which exhibited at the Drumheller Calf Show last year, provided the stock judging teams for the national contest in Toronto.

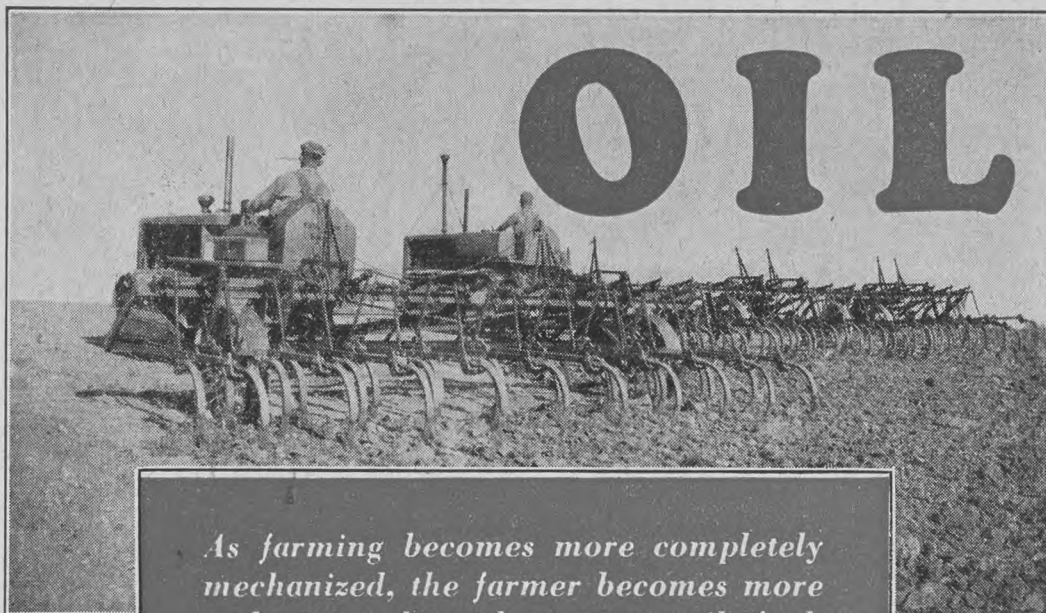
All calves entered in the Calf Club Show must be sold at the sale for immediate slaughter; but if the club winners cannot be taken on to win in Toronto or Chicago there is competition of another kind. With 11 clubs competing and 200 head entered in the show, competition can be very keen. I visited Agnes Montgomery, for instance, whose calf had won the grand championship at the 1947 Calf Show. Agnes just had to win, of course, because she simply couldn't let her brothers Eugene and James, who had each shown the grand champion calf in previous years, prove to be more proficient calf club members than she was. In addition, she couldn't let her eldest brother Vance down, because Vance, who is now farming for himself, had been secretary of the grain club at Morrin, then president of the club and, when he became too old for membership, was made leader of the junior calf club. This year Vance won the Leidal Trophy as leader of the club which won the General Efficiency Shield of the district. If these were not enough reasons for Agnes to want to win, she had another, because when Vance got married he married an outstanding junior club girl from a neighboring farm.

At any rate she did win and her dark roan Short-horn heifer which had gained 232 pounds between November 1 and May 28 when the fair was held, sold for 75 cents per pound. The heifer had been purchased for \$100 as a calf and had eaten her \$89.15 worth of feed. Agnes was very well satisfied, but said she would have liked it better if other club members had received higher prices for their calves.

(Turn to page 32)

STUDY IN

OIL



As farming becomes more completely mechanized, the farmer becomes more and more dependent upon oil fuel. What would be the effect of diminishing supplies, caused either by a drying up of the sources, or by temporary rationing to allow for the expansion of war industries? This has become a question of growing concern to agriculture.

On the other hand Russia produces 6.5 per cent of the world's total output while Eastern European nations produce 1.2. Production in the Communist sphere therefore is only 7.7 per cent of the world's total.

WITH all nations building up their industrial and military might and the need for oil mounting daily, one of the greatest international treasure hunts in history is in progress, making the famed Klondike gold rush look like an afternoon tea party.

In Chile, Argentina and Brazil the search for oil is reaching a frenzied pitch. Mexico, which expropriated foreign-owned oil wells a while back, ironically enough has engaged an American company to sink 190 new wells. Venezuela has tapped almost four million acres for oil exploration. Near Point Barrow, Alaska, the U.S. navy oil strike is being followed through vigorously.

Oil is being extracted along the east coast of the Zuider Zee in Holland. In Italy, Denmark, Sweden and Turkey exploration and development of existing oil resources has been greatly accelerated. The

Soviet Union has a large army of oil prospectors probing the vast regions of Siberia, the Ural and Caucasus mountains in a frantic effort to find sufficient quantities of the black plasma for transfusion into its anemic industrial and war machines.

The countries of the Middle East—Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Yemen, Bahrein, Trans-Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine—contain 43 per cent of the world's underground oil reserves. It is here one of the most exciting international chess games is in progress as American, British, Dutch and French

interests vie with each other for concessions in the great oil fields. To date the Americans are in the lead with control of 40 per cent of the barely-tapped reserves.

But what of our own country?

In 1947 Canada produced some 7,729,000 barrels of crude oil. This is about one quarter of one per cent of the world total for that year. Because of Imperial Oil's sensational strike in Leduc, Alberta, two years ago, this percentage may now be slightly greater.

Current consumption of oil products in the Dominion is about 270,000 barrels daily or 98,000,000 barrels a year. Domestic production is in the neighborhood of 30,000 barrels daily—about 11 per cent of our immediate requirements. While no accurate figures are available on farm consumption, it is estimated by leading oil statisticians that prairie farmers alone consumed approximately 8,700,000 barrels of fuel in 1947. This compares with some 5,000,000 barrels in 1939. Taking into consideration the increased sales of motorized farm machinery during the past year, it may be assumed that present rural oil consumption in the west is double that of 10 years ago.

To supply its growing needs, Canada is forced to bring the bulk of its petroleum products from the United States and South America. But the U.S. situation hasn't been too bright recently. In the past two years increasing domestic requirements there have changed our southern neighbor from a net exporter to a net importer of oil despite increased production.

At the time of writing an industry-wide strike in California has reduced oil (Turn to page 34)

OIL! This small word is spoken with reverence in most corners of the globe. It is one of the main topics of conversation in the world capitals. It has stirred up more international intrigue than could be dreamed up by a score of fiction writers.

For, next to food, oil is the number one commodity on the "must" list of all nations. One might even say that the axis of the modern world is lubricated with oil and if the supply were exhausted, progress would grind to a sickening stop and the horse and buggy days would be back with us.

In the past few years oil has become an indispensable part of the Canadian farmer's vocabulary. It means fuel and lubrication for his combines and tractors; his trucks and jeeps; his family car. At the rapid pace rural mechanization has been going on, it has become as vital to farm economics as it is in the operation of a wartime army.

It is no wonder then that Canadian farmers are asking the question:

"Where do we stand in the oil picture?"

First—let's take a glance at this picture.

According to a recent United Nations survey, there are about 66 billion barrels (42 American gallons each) of oil reserves underground in the world. Of this, 50 billion have been proved by drilling operations and 16 billion indicated from estimates made of deposits only partially explored.

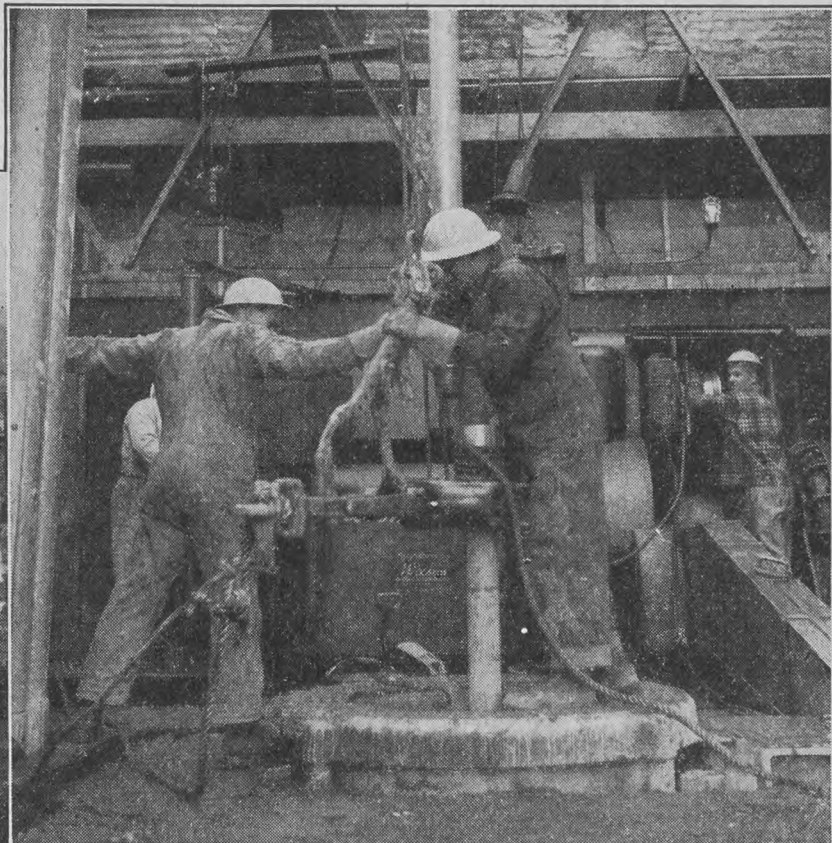
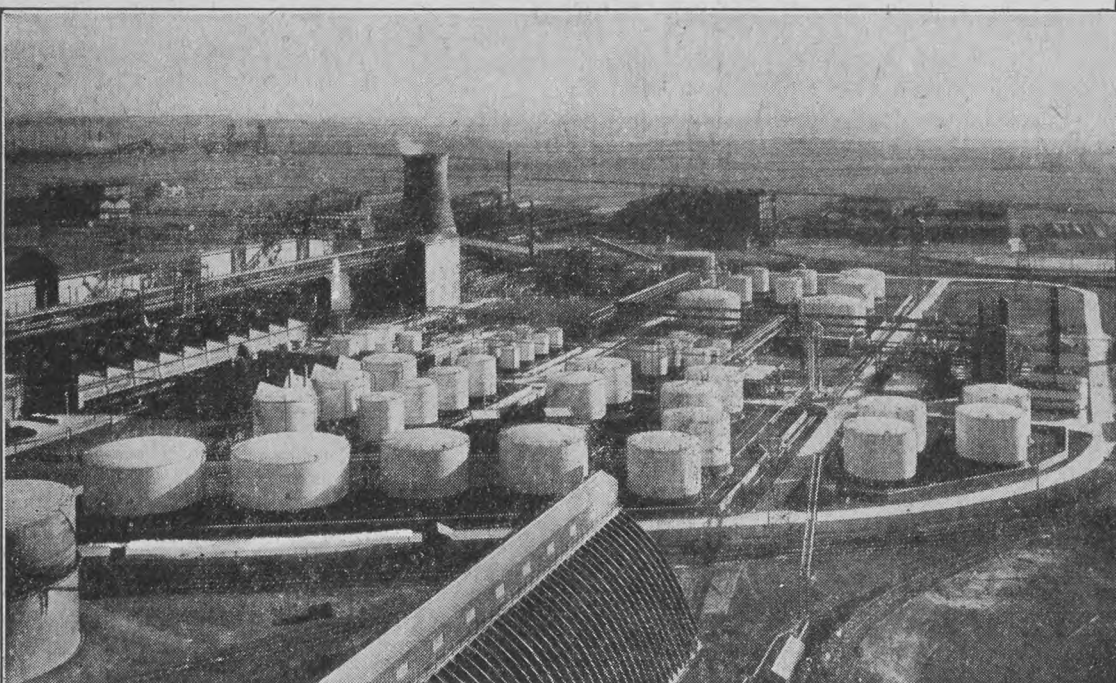
American interests control 59 per cent of this total; Britain 21 per cent; Russia 11 per cent; Holland five per cent, and France two per cent. All other nations combined control the remainder of two per cent.

The United States is also far ahead of the rest in oil production. Of the world's average daily output of 9,090,075 barrels, the U.S. produces 60.3 per cent; Venezuela (mostly U.S. controlled) 14.3 per cent; the Middle East 11.7 per cent; other western hemisphere nations 4.2 per cent; the Far East 1.5 per cent; Western Europe and Africa 0.3 per cent. All these areas lie in the democratic sphere of influence and are responsible for 92.3 per cent of the world's total oil production.

Synthetic oil will be a major factor in the future. Below: the great synthetic plant at Billingham, England. Right: pulling pipe at Leduc, a job which calls for split-second timing on the part of all crew members.

[Photos: C. I. L. and Imperial Oil.]

by PHILIP A.
NOVIKOFF





Your Farm ...

and your bank

As a Canadian farmer, you choose your own banker. You understand your banking services; you use them intelligently.

Whenever you can see a profit in borrowing, you borrow—perhaps to finish livestock, to buy new equipment—perhaps to hire help, to put in a crop, to harvest it.

And you appreciate the privacy of your dealings with your banker. That is the way you like it. You would not want it any other way.

Contrast this Canadian way with conditions in lands where freedom is denied—where every bank is a political tool, every banker a State official! State monopoly of banking, proposed by socialists here, would open your banking transactions to political intrusion. You could gain nothing by nationalization of your bank, any more than by nationalization of your farm.

SPONSORED BY YOUR BANK

Flight from Nome

PART 11—CONCLUSION



HE HEARD a plane's single motor and went outside. The field lights were on, and he saw a ski plane coming in. It landed beautifully, skimming the surface inches above the snow, then sliding with hardly a wobble to a crawl. It returned and stopped.

Danny opened the door and Honey Martin framed the doorway. She had been standing there, Danny knew, to be the first out—to block any chance of her husband preceding her and helping her to the ground. She was a rather enchanting armful, Danny decided, as he received her into his upraised arms and gently swung her to her feet. "Thanks," she said sweetly, and her smile was friendly. Her grey eyes responded to the admiration that was in his eyes. And suddenly Danny guessed that that was the trouble between the Martins—a girl from the Outside, unused to an abnormal amount of male admiration had found it in Alaska and it had gone to her head. It was a common enough problem up here.

Now as her eyes briefly met her husband's, they were cold and aloof. Her face was polite boredom as she accepted the overnight bag he handed down and said, "Thank you."

Danny wondered about the room shortage in Anchorage. There had been occasions when couples who had definitely come to the parting of the ways had had to bunk together.

Chuck Martin slid his own and his wife's bags to the doorway and Danny set them onto the ground. Chuck was rugged, a rusty-headed, solid, dependable man who would make very few mistakes in life. He was a mining engineer who was making ground once classified as "hungry," pay dividends. "How goes it, Danny?" he said. "Sorry that we held you up."

IT must be tough, Danny thought, to know that everyone knows that the little woman considers you on a par with sluice box tailings. He was tremendously fond of Chuck Martin. He knew him when he hadn't a dime, and he had set him down with a season's grub, in some pretty tough spots. The man rated the right kind of a wife and suddenly Danny was sorry that he had set Honey down so gently. He should have jarred her a little.

They went directly to the big plane, while Honey slipped into the waiting room to fix her face, and give a few deft touches to her hair which a parka hood can muss badly.

"Take care of the passengers, Danny," Joe said. "Let me know when we're all set." He went up front and readied for the take-off.

Danny helped the passengers up the ladder. Chuck Martin stood on the other side, lending a hand. When Big Kate came along Chuck said, "Hello, Kate." He would never forget that when he was trying to get a start she was the only person who grubstaked him one season. He was picking up a reputation as a hard luck prospector and money was tight. Well, she had tripled her investment, had plowed it back

In the stark, clear prospect of danger, Danny and Joe's passengers showed the sort of stuff of which they were made.

by

FRANK RICHARDSON PIERCE

Illustrated by ROBERT RECK.



As Danny entered the cabin again the passengers were getting ready to disembark.

into Chuck Martin and it had paid off ten for one.

"Glad to see you, Chuck," Kate said, then as he helped her up, "Thanks. I'm getting old. The fifteen hundred-odd ice steps up Chilkoot Pass were easier."

OLD Man Kent stopped and looked back at Nome. "What is it the French say when they say goodbye, but are coming back again? Oh yeah, *ah-river*. Ah-river, Nome." To no one in particular he said, "They're taking me Outside to cure me. I've seen 'em all—Jack London; Alec Maclean who was the original of the Sea Wolf; Soapy Smith . . . Jack put me in one of his books." With Danny and Chuck's help he climbed stiffly into the plane. He chuckled wisely, "Ah-river Nome, I'll be back."

Big Kate swallowed hard and muttered, "Ah-river Nome, damn it!" Father Carney, hearing her words, smiled with gentle understanding. He had never spoken to Big Kate. Their trails, so far apart, were running parallel for the first time.

Chuck saw his wife coming and he swung aboard and found a seat, giving her the opportunity to take a seat as far as possible from him. Maureen followed Honey Martin and they took adjoining seats near the door. Chuck sat on the same side, with his big feet thrust in between pieces of freight.

Hank Dowling, carrying a small, thick mattress, spread it partly on the seats, partly on the freight, lashed it securely and made his wife snug. He kissed her, then stood back, regarding her anxiously. "S'long," he said, inadequately expressing his emotions, "and don't take any wooden nickels."

She smiled. "Bye, Hank, and there's nothing to worry about. I've been through this before. And . . . Hank . . . don't forget to open the damper if you build a fire in the fireplace. You know your failing, and I don't want my new wallpaper smoked up. And keep out of poker games, everyone

knows that your mouth twitches on the right side when you hold a winning hand."

"Remember about the wooden nickels," Hank said, as he made his way over freight and feet to the door.

Mary McGee came last, explaining to Danny, "Butch had an accident . . . of all things. I had to change him. The very idea, Butch, holding up a big plane full of people." Butch took this in stride. He burped, looked startled, then smiled.

Danny closed the door and went forward. "All set," he reported, securing his seat belt.

They taxied out, revved the motors, and were ready. "She would dress for the trail!" Joe Lynch said, savagely. "There's going to be a scene at Anchorage, and what a scene there'll be! That's all for now. From this second on, we're a couple of guys flying a plane."

"A couple of guys flying a plane," Danny echoed.

ICE-LOCKED Nome fell away. The moon was up, and Danny saw the familiar pattern of frozen lakes and streams—exquisite pieces of silver now—skimming under the wings. Here and there the wind had blown the snow into well-spaced rows and it looked as if the lakes were ice-free and a gale had kicked up a surf.

One man got on at Moses Point, and they headed across Norton Sound for Unalakleet. The ice was hardly more than three hundred feet below their wheels. It was safe flying, but Danny thought, if I were on the left hand side I'd get some elevation and waste gasoline. Some passengers don't like gliding over ice that might not take a good bounce.

The Moses Point passenger got off at Unalakleet and a couple more got on. Later, relaxed, Danny stared indifferently ahead. He could see the break in the scant timber that marked the old Nome mail trail. He thought of the old days when men and dogs crawled over it with first class mail when Nome was a roaring mining camp.

About now, he guessed, Old Man Kent was saying, "I mushed mail in the old days—mail and a new girl for the dance halls. The miners liked a fresh face, now and again. I've known 'em all . . ."

And the chances were good Old Man Kent had mushed mail to Nome. If you (Turn to page 51)



Father Carney

News of Agriculture

leave winter behind Holiday ON THE PACIFIC COAST



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Regina	46.80	52.75	65.35	74.45
Saskatoon	46.80	54.20	65.35	74.45
Edmonton	37.35	44.40	62.85	70.20
Calgary	32.40	35.20	53.65	61.05
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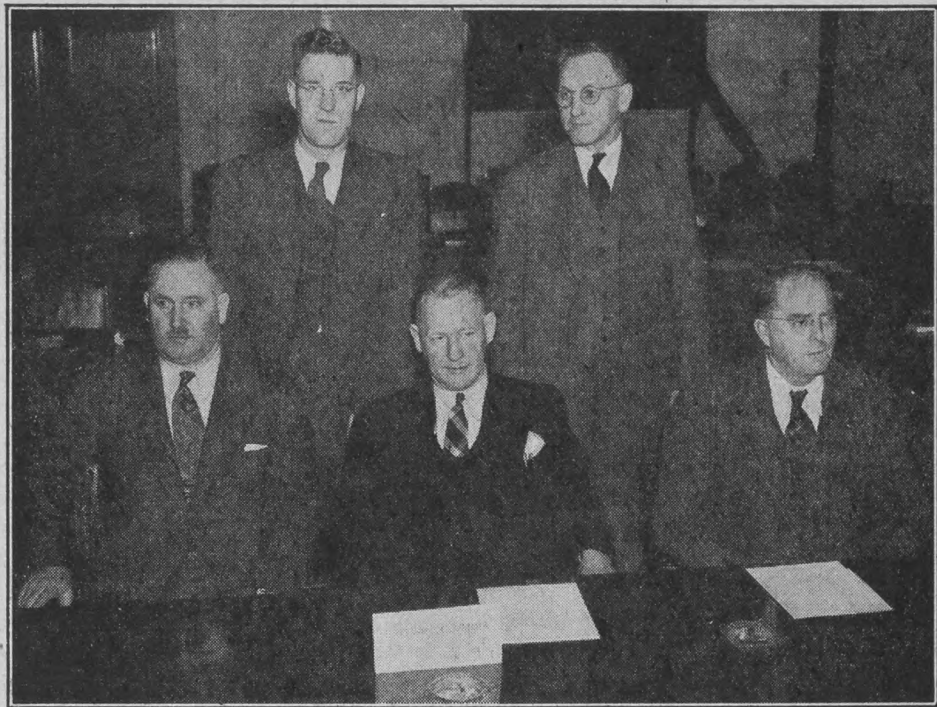
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At the Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference, Ottawa, were: (back row) left to right, R. M. Putnam, assistant deputy minister and O. S. Longman, deputy minister, from Alberta; and (front row), W. MacGillivray, director agricultural extension, G. H. Stewart, statistician, and Dr. J. B. Munro, deputy minister, from British Columbia.

Farm Income

THE Dominion Bureau of Statistics has released an analysis of cash income from the sale of farm products in Canada, in 1926, 1929 and 1933 to 1947 inclusive.

In 1933, total farm income was \$397 million. In 1947 it was \$1,991 million, an increase of over five times. In 1933 there was a larger income from the sale of dairy products, poultry and eggs than there was from the sale of livestock, but the two combined did not quite equal the value of field crops sold. In 1947 the value of livestock sold exceeded the value of dairy products, poultry and eggs, and the two combined exceeded field crops by \$200 million.

In the 17 years studied, dairy products, poultry and eggs have exceeded the sale value of livestock three times. For two years, 1941 and 1942, the value of livestock sold exceeded the value of field crops.

In 10 out of the 17 years the western provinces produced a greater value of farm products than Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes combined. In 1942 the western provinces marketed farm products to a total of \$1,127 million compared with \$627 million from Ontario and Quebec and \$75 million from the Maritimes. In 1933 the value of agricultural products marketed in the western provinces was \$197 million compared with \$177 million in Ontario and Quebec and \$23 million in the Maritimes.

In all areas and all products, the value of farm products marketed has fluctuated widely. The western provinces have moved from a low of \$197 million to a high of \$1,127 million; Ontario and Quebec have moved from a low of \$177 million to a high of \$842 million, and the Maritimes have moved from a low of \$23 million to a high of \$90 million.

Butter Versus Margarine

ACCORDING to the New Zealand Dairy Exporter, W. Marshall, chairman of the New Zealand Dairy Product Marketing Commission, reported, after a return from the United Kingdom, that in spite of heavy food subsidies, there was evidence of considerable resistance to prices in Britain.

With reference to his comment on the comparative demand for butter and margarine, the New Zealand Dairy Exporter said:

"During the period when a four-ounce ration of butter had been available there was some slight indication in certain districts of considerable resistance at 1/2d to 1/4d a pound in comparison with margarine at 8d to 9d a pound. Before the war when there was a margin of 4d a pound between the two products, butter sold freely. If all subsidies were lifted margarine would sell at 1/3d today and butter at 2/6d. Prewar, if the difference between those products was greater than 4d a pound the sales of butter fell off.

Food For Britain

E. H. GARDENER, deputy president of the Farmers' Union of Britain, recently discussed the possibility of Britain feeding herself. He pointed out that with a population of 45,000,000 and land amounting to 32,000,000 acres, it would be necessary to feed one person off two-thirds of an acre. Before the war 1.6 acres were required to feed one person, meaning some 75,000,000 acres would be required to feed the whole population.

He suggested that if the diet were altered, more people could be fed from the produce of fewer acres. Of the 1.6 acres used to feed one person, 1.3 acres was used for the production of meat, the rest of the food eaten being produced on the remaining one-third of an acre.

"Possibly," he said, "with increased production and a slightly amended diet we could support one man on one acre; in other words we can supply from this country enough food for 32,000,000 people. I do not think we can go much beyond that unless we have an exceedingly dull diet."

THERE is less poultry on farms than there was in 1947. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that on June 1, 1948, poultry on farms consisting of domestic fowl, turkeys, geese, and ducks totalled 72,580,900 birds, a decline of 17.8 per cent from last year's total of 88,263,800.

Get It At A Glance

News shorts for quick reading.

FARMING is said to be healthful work, and in England, particularly, 70-year-old farmers able to do a full day's work in the field are reported as fairly common. One, at least, of these is unique: Dan Bullen, farming at Carbrooke, Norfolk, is Britain's oldest working farmer, at 102 years of age. His birth certificate is dated September 1, 1846, and he is described as a fine, broad-shouldered, deep-chested figure of a man who doesn't look much more than 60.

THE gross value of principal field crops produced on Canadian farms in 1948 is estimated at 1,595 million dollars. Records of crop values extend back 41 years, and this figure represents the highest gross value of production recorded. The 1,500 million dollar mark has only been exceeded one other time, in 1919. Values in excess of 1,400 million dollars were only recorded on two other occasions, in 1920 and 1947. High prices were largely responsible for the enhanced values in these years.

THE Canadian government saw fit to go to the courts to establish the legality of the ban on the manufacture and importation of margarine—a ban 62 years old. After suitable discussion the Supreme Court of Canada decided that the Dominion government did not have the necessary authority to ban margarine manufacture. It may very well be that the decision will now be up to the Privy Council, if the case is appealed. Some companies were ready to place the product on the market a few days after the decision was handed down.

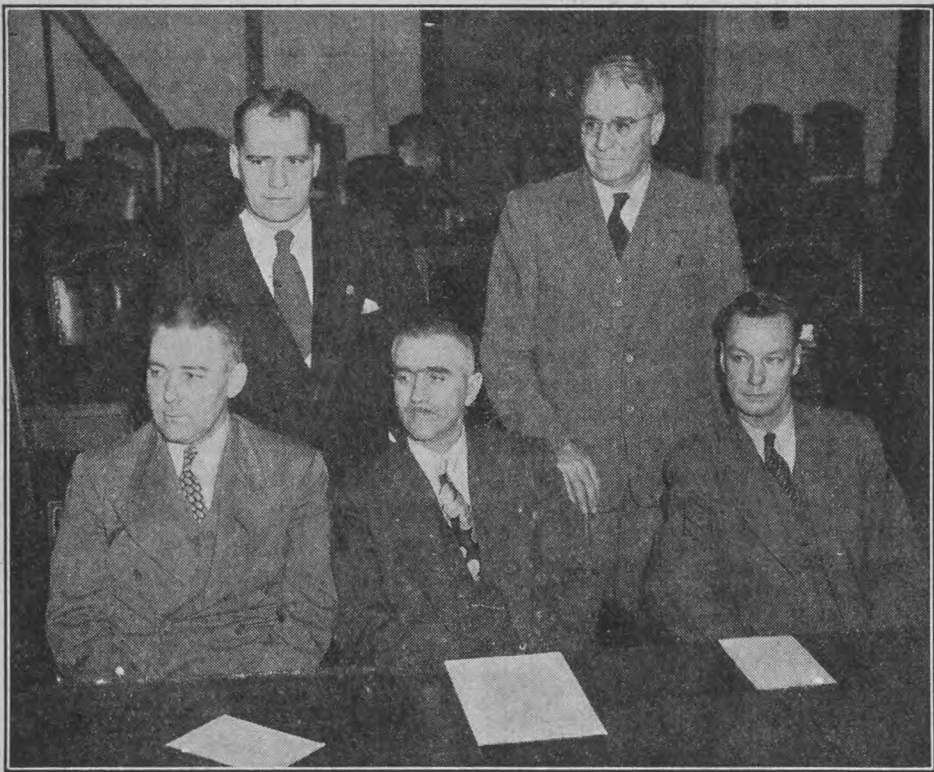
THE manufacture and sale of margarine has been permitted in South Africa since 1945. Control of production is vested in the Dairy Industry Control Board, and production limited to four licensed firms. Their output is taken over by the government and sold to lower income groups in nine urban areas. Total production permitted is limited to 7,000,000 pounds,

this figure to be raised to 12,000,000 when the Minister of Agriculture considers that the increase is justified. Regulations permit the addition of coloring, but require that the word "margarine" shall be printed on three sides of the package, in lettering not less than half an inch in height.

DR. SCOTT ROBERTSON, head of the British Agricultural Advisory Service, recently told the conference of The British Association that approximately 65,000,000 tons of grain were destroyed each year, between harvest and consumption, by pests and rodents. Science, he said, knows how to control these stupendous losses, but concerted action on an international basis is required.

FLIES can chase a lot of beef off your cattle in a summer. Ray L. Cuff, of the National Livestock Loss Prevention Board, told the American Association of Economic Entomologists that the use of DDT and BHC, a new insecticide, grew 60,000,000 extra pounds of beef in Kansas in 1948. The animals were sprayed twice, at a cost of five cents each time. The result was an increase in weight of 50 pounds on the animals sprayed when compared to those not treated.

BRITISH milk producers have felt secure for many years. They were comfortable in the thought that liquid milk could never reach the Isle from overseas. All that is changed now. Pasteurizing makes milk safe and acceptable for two days after it is drawn. Recently arrangements were made to fly milk from Belfast to industrial areas in Lancashire. If milk can come from Belfast to Liverpool it can also come from Amsterdam to Liverpool. If air delivery becomes general there is no part of Europe that cannot place fresh milk on the British market. In Canada, milk is already being flown from P.E. Island to Newfoundland.



Saskatchewan was represented at the Ottawa Conference by: (left to right), M. E. Hartnett, deputy minister, Edward Evans, secretary of statistics, Hon. I. C. Nollet, minister of agriculture, E. E. Brockelbank, director agricultural representatives, and Dr. V. E. Graham, dean of agriculture, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

A Growing Family...Farm work...Housework...



At last! Day is done and the Rich family snuggles up for a few cozy minutes. Baby Elaine is off to dreamland, but Johnny, Helen, and Elizabeth don't want to miss a word of the story daddy is reading. Mrs. Rich (her arms just naturally go around John) says, "We're as happy as newlyweds. And as much in love!"

How does Mrs. John Rich keep that Happy Glow in her Marriage?



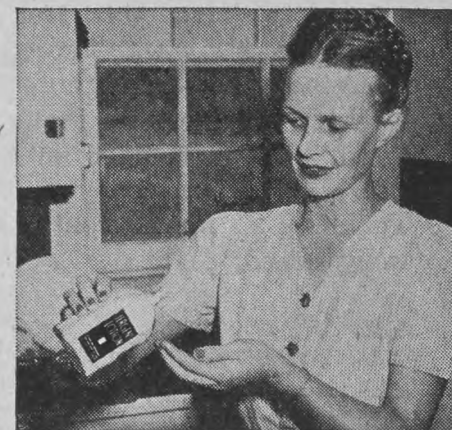
Ever see such a big girl for six months? "Elaine's baths and diapers keep my hands in water. They'd be red and rough if not for Jergens Lotion," says Mrs. Rich. "It makes them soft...the way John likes them!"



John breeds Guernseys, Holsteins and Herefords on their well stocked farm. Mrs. Rich fits their prize Hereford before the show. "Just rub your smooth hands over him for good luck!" John says.



"Every day is wash day," says Mrs. Rich. "We don't have a washing machine...yet. (Listening, Mr. Rich?) So it's strong soap and scrub-in-the-tub. But Jergens makes my hands look pampered, velvety-soft!"



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B.C. Food Export Market Down

Newly announced British food contracts hard blow for coast farmers.

by CHAS. L. SHAW

ANNOUNCEMENT of the new United Kingdom food contracts with Canadian producers was an unpalatable pill for British Columbians, but they had been conditioned for bad news by the knowledge ever since Sir Stafford Cripps' visit to Ottawa, that Britain was going to cut down wherever possible her purchases in dollar countries.

Where there is life there is hope, however, and a majority of British Columbia growers had been looking for something slightly better than the orders revealed by Hon. James Gardiner. The fruit men of the Okanagan had anticipated that a loophole might be found for shipping at least some apples to the United Kingdom, and egg producers had certainly been led to expect more business than they are actually likely to get as a result of the British ministry of food's final decision.

The people most likely to be hit hardest in the west coast province are the growers of raspberries for export. Large quantities were grown in the Fraser Valley during the war years and shipped in sulphur dioxide solution to Britain. Reading the handwriting on the wall, the provincial government had warned growers early in 1948, that very little, if any, business would be forthcoming from overseas this year. But a majority of the berry men, looking back on a succession of profitable seasons, just couldn't be convinced and they produced a big crop. It would have been even bigger had it not been for the Fraser River floods last summer. The result is that today there is more than 1,500 tons of raspberries in SO₂ ready for shipment in storage, with no takers. Just how this vast stock can be disposed of is one of the major headaches faced by growers this winter; there is a limit to the length of time this material can be stored without deterioration.

The apple growers are not so badly off even though export markets appear to be fading fast. Their experience is all the more unfortunate because there is actually a big demand for apples in the United Kingdom as well as in the West Indies and South Africa. But Britain has officially said "no" and African business will be on a quota basis only, and this is regarded as unsatisfactory.

AS for eggs, British Columbia poultrymen have been shipping enormous quantities overseas and now the contracts call for a substantial reduction. Shippers are trying to develop new markets in such markets as Honolulu and Alaska, and perhaps the coastal states. One thing seems certain: Poultry flocks are not likely to be increased during the coming spring. The bloom is definitely off the egg boom, although the long-term prospects may not be too unfavorable since egg exports were being confined pretty much to the United Kingdom and now that the U.K. cannot buy in previous quantity the restrictions on export elsewhere will be relaxed.

So far as the province's whole economy is concerned, the most serious effect of Britain's curtailed

buying is being felt by the dominant lumber industry, which was informed that for the first six months of 1949 the United Kingdom will buy only \$7,000,000 worth of lumber from the west coast and this mostly high grade stuff, leaving inferior and less easily marketable goods on the sawmills hands. As a result of this, several smaller sawmills which have been cutting and shipping exclusively for export have already shut down. When it is considered that the last big order for B.C. lumber to Britain represented more than \$60,000,000 for a year's supply, the extent of the reduction is more readily perceived.

British Columbia farmers in almost every branch of production were represented at the fifteenth annual meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Agriculture in Vancouver last month.

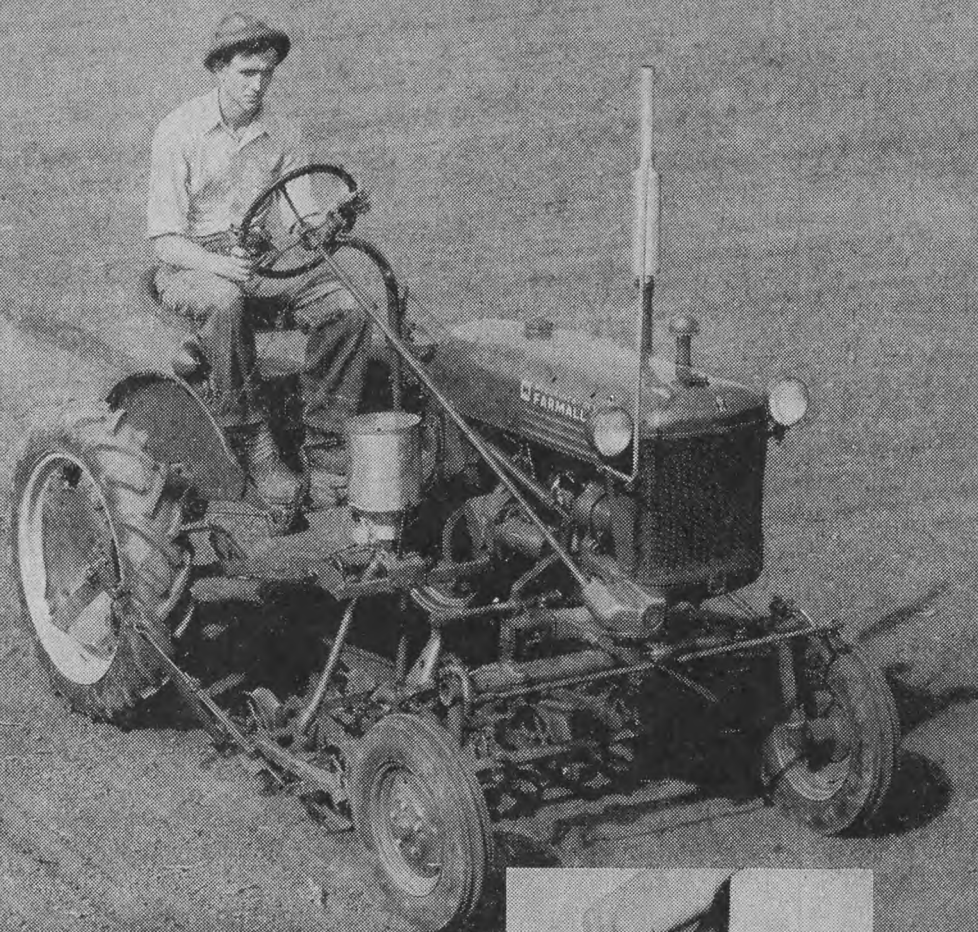
IN his presidential address J. R. J. "Jock" Stirling of Kelowna, in the heart of the apple country, said one of the problems of agriculture was that the consumer had been coddled too long. "The consuming public have had too much to eat, too long, too cheap," said Stirling, and he added that markets were becoming more and more competitive and the customers more choosy. He said it was the duty of primary producers to convince the public that prices were not too high; that the public had grown accustomed to too much of a good thing.

The trouble, he said, lay in the fact that the average consumer was too much inclined to think of producers' prices in terms of depression levels, yet the farmer's costs had gone up as much if not more than anyone else's.

"We mustn't forget the consumer's angle, but our slogan must always be the greatest proportion of the consumer's dollar back to the man on the land," said the federation president.

The politicians in British Columbia are having their worries, too, especially since the coalition lost one seat in the recent by-elections. There was one contest in the Okanagan, which the coalition won, and another in the Rossland-Trail riding which went to the Socialist opposition. The combined forces of the Liberals and Conservatives representing the present coalition government still hold a dominant position in the legislature, but there are signs of unrest within the two factions.

The younger Liberal element seems to feel that the party could go farther politically if it were not affiliated with the Conservatives, and some of the latter are of the opinion that they, too, are strong enough to go it alone. Just how the two old-line parties can feel this way with confidence is somewhat of a mystery in view of the fact that even in combination they haven't been able to score particularly convincing victories over the C.C.F., but after seven years of coalition and loss of their separate identification the more aggressive groups are anxious to test their strength, and that may come before very late in the coming summer.



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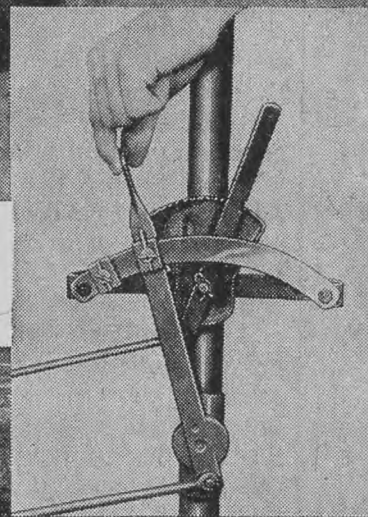
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The grand champion steer and the winner of the King's Guineas at the Royal Winter Fair in November were each black and polled, which pleased all Aberdeen-Angus breeders. Both winners were exhibited from Ontario.

Polled Cattle

THE dehorning of cattle and the breeding of polled or hornless cattle seems to be making comparatively slow progress in North America. All of the dairy breeds of cattle in common production are horned and while it is true that the Aberdeen-Angus, among the beef cattle, is polled and of very high quality for beef production, it is not as popular, generally speaking, as either the Hereford or the Shorthorn breed. There is a polled Hereford which is making some progress in the United States, but progress is comparatively slow. Some individual dairymen, also some commercial beef producers, dehorn their cattle but they seem to be very definitely in the minority.

It is now quite a few years since the provincial governments in western Canada passed legislation setting up the so-called horned cattle funds, under which a reduction is made from the sale price of every cattle beast reaching market in a horned condition. These funds, administered generally by a special board set up for the purpose, were intended to be used for the development of the livestock industry. As such, perhaps they have served a more or less useful purpose, but no one, as far as we are aware, has suggested that the proportion of horned cattle now reaching our markets is much if any less than when these funds were established.

The very striking horns of the Ayrshire and the Hereford cattle have much more glamour than utility. Less can be said about the glamour and no more about the utility of the horns on other breeds of cattle. Nevertheless, the horns persist and are responsible for undetermined but substantial loss and injury to breeding and marketing cattle year after year.

This condition does not seem to obtain in Australia. "Farming News" recorded some remarks by Viscount Bledisloe, who recently made a goodwill trip to Australia and New Zealand on behalf of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. From these comments, we learn that while beef cattle in Australia are preponder-

antly Hereford, hornlessness is steadily increasing. Many are dehorned as calves but the number of polled Herefords is growing as a result of the importation of polled Hereford bulls from the United States. Many of the Shorthorns are also of the polled type. Among dual-purpose cattle, Red Polls seem to be most popular. Lord Bledisloe said that in a few years time cattle in Australia would probably be entirely polled. This seemed likely since the dairy herds are becoming increasingly hornless.

Incidentally, Lord Bledisloe reported that the finest herd of pedigree beef Shorthorns he saw anywhere in Australia was not only polled and comparable with the best types of Scottish bred Shorthorns, but was owned and managed by a blind veteran of World War I. Blindness seemed to have provided no insurmountable obstacles to this breeder in South East Queensland, as Lord Bledisloe is reported as saying:

"Mr. Scrymgeour, guided by his wife (on horseback), to the paddock and barns containing his cattle, described to me quite accurately all the points of his chief beasts, ascertaining, by feeling with his hands, all the information which most experts ascertain with their eyes. His enthusiasm is amazing. He carries off most of the Shorthorn championships at the big Royal Shows."

Sheep Breeds For Canada

THE types and breeds of sheep found on Canadian farms were developed in Britain and Continental Europe. H. J. Hargrave and S. A. Hilton of the Dominion Experimental Farm Service suggest that in the majority of cases these sheep were introduced as pure breeds, largely for show purposes, rather than for their ability to produce meat and wool.

Since that time Canadian scientists and sheep breeders have been concentrating on the task of adapting these breeds to Canadian conditions. A great deal of progress has been made, but a lot remains to be done. From the commercial standpoint the job is to develop types and breeds that are suited to the variations in the

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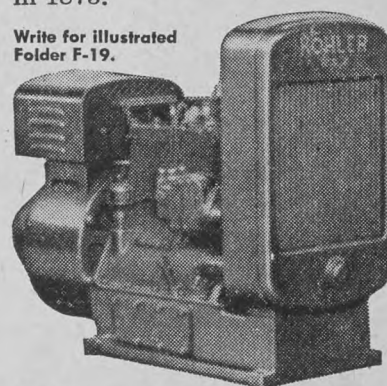
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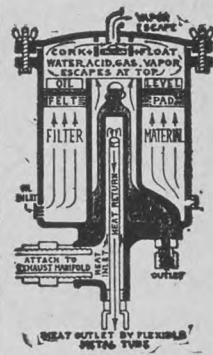
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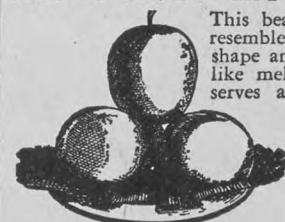
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Canadian climate, while keeping in mind the market demand for both meat and wool.

These authorities appear to be a little doubtful about the merit of breeding for show ring standards. They suggest that these standards have contributed to the failure of some breeds of sheep to retain the economic position they once held in some areas of Canada.

Breeding Progress Slow

BREEDERS of livestock are well aware that rapid progress in livestock breeding is exceedingly difficult. With cattle and horses, proven breeding animals require several years for development and the active period then remaining to them is comparatively short, especially in the case of cattle.

Even in the case of swine, very few breeders have ever achieved outstanding success and recognition until many years have passed. Losses of valuable breeding animals, bad luck in the form of infectious diseases or undesirable breeding characteristics, often met with in any type of livestock, cause costly and irritating delays. Most difficult to obtain is a combination of utility and show ring achievement. Breeders can sometimes win success in the largest shows, but prize-winning animals may fail to produce large litters consistently, or enough good individuals that will in time develop into good foundation stock.

"Farmer and Stockbreeder" recorded recently the success which has attended a British breeder of Large White pigs whose herd was founded as late as 1942. Since that time animals from this herd had won eight good championships and three reserve championships, besides more than 50 other prizes. In addition, this herd has established an average of 9.52 pigs reared for 50 consecutive litters. One of the sows had produced 69 pigs in four litters and reared 49 of them. Her fifth litter, then five weeks old, consisted of 12 pigs. She had, incidentally, produced nine progeny averaging 64 pounds 3 shillings when sold. Another younger sow had produced 29 pigs in two litters, rearing 25 of them.

Pen-Barns Are Better

SINCE 1941, the pen-barn has been studied at the University of Wisconsin. Originally, two prefabricated steel barns were built, one with the conventional stanchions and the other a pen-barn. Later a second, insulated pen-barn was erected and kept at as nearly the same temperature as the stall-barn. It has been in operation since 1944.

Briefly the pen-barn has proved superior to the stall-barn because of: (1) Lower construction cost; (2) flexibility as to use and herd size; (3) fewer injuries to cows; and (4) a saving of labor.

Its disadvantages are: (1) About 50 per cent extra bedding is required where the pen-barn is properly planned and no feeding is done on the bedded area; and (2) calves do not gain in weight as rapidly.

Of interest in western Canada is the fact that cold weather and low barn temperatures have had no effect on production, though barn temperatures ranged from 60 degrees Fahr. to five degrees below zero. In both warm barns milk production fell off during

very cold weather when the inside temperature fell toward 40 degrees Fahr. Feed consumption was a little higher in the pen-barns than in the stall-barn, but cattle in these barns ate more roughage. Consequently, the actual cost of the feed figured as the cost of total digestible nutrients was slightly lower per pound of milk produced in the pen-barns. Also the cows in the cold pen-barn were willing to eat poorer quality feed than those in the warm barn and they were bred on the average with fewer services. On the whole there was little difference in the amount of milk produced, or in the cost of production in the three barns. During the last two years the cold pen-barn had a slight advantage—labor saving amounted to about eight to 10 per cent in the pen-barns with the advantage slightly in favor of the cold pen-barn.

We Can't Tell By Looking

QUITE a few prairie farmers, who at one time weighed and recorded the milk produced by each cow, twice daily, have ceased to do this because of the time required. Actually this isn't a very good reason, though, of course, if a man wants to shovel high-priced feed into cows and just hope for the best it isn't anyone else's business outside of his family.

Most of the commercial milk cows in this country, especially in the prairie provinces, are grades. Why anybody would choose to employ high-priced labor to feed high-priced grain and hay harvested with high-priced labor, to either grade or purebred cows without knowing what each cow is doing in return, is hard to understand. Actually a set of scales, a sheet of paper and a lead pencil can be about the most effective labor-saving device available with any dairy herd. In those provinces where cow testing associations or herd improvement associations exist, the way is made very easy to test butterfat yield as well as milk yield.

You can't tell by looking at a cow how much profit she will return over feed and overhead cost by the end of the year. Wisconsin is generally considered to be the leading dairy state in the United States. In 1947 there were 9,600 Wisconsin dairy herds regularly tested through Dairy Herd Improvement Associations organized in 58 counties. This probably represents several times as many herds as are under test in the prairie provinces, and perhaps the statement would still be true if British Columbia were included. Dairy authorities at the University of Wisconsin say it takes the first 200 pounds of butterfat produced by a cow in any year to pay for her feed and overhead costs, and that the amount of butterfat over 200 pounds represents what each cow pays the farmer for his labor. The state average for Dairy Herd Improvement Association herds is 335 pounds butterfat per cow.

Of course, cow-testing or herd-testing means extra labor with no returns, if the owner of the herd does nothing to weed out the poor cows. But if he uses testing to test the quality of the herd sire, or as a basis for selecting females to be added to the breeding herd, or to get rid of those that are not paying their way, or better still for all three purposes, he simply can't lose by testing. He certainly can lose by feeding poor cows.

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Experiment In Contouring

PRAIRIE farmers have had occasion in recent years to feel some concern over the loss of soil fertility resulting from erosion. Not many have done much about it, beyond grassing down a gully here and there. The rapid development of mechanization has, if anything, added to the problem because it has led many men to increase the speed of tillage to the point where the erosion problem has been magnified.

Ivan Graham, Harding, Manitoba, is one of the very few prairie farmers who has taken the loss of soil seriously enough to strike out on his own in an attempt to do something about it. He farms a fairly large acreage of land that is quite rolling. Studying his own particular problem and that of his neighbors, led him, as far back as 1940, to begin an attempt at farming on the contour. It took a little time to work a portion of his farm around to the point where he could begin to put his idea into effect. About 1945, however, he got in some of what he calls buffer strips. At first, of course, the logical thing was to seed down the gullies, but as fast as he could get around to it on that part of the farm which seemed to need it most, he worked out his contour plan with the aid of an ordinary carpenter's level fixed on a tripod. Every 200 feet he laid out a "buffer" strip, which would run crosswise of the field the width of a drill. These strips seeded cross-wise were, of course, to stop the downward movement of soil and slow up the rush of run-off water. He uses the brome and alfalfa mixture for seeding down the buffer strips and the crop of grass is cut and taken in for feed. Mr. Graham says that what he had done is not the final answer, but for the present it is doing the trick.

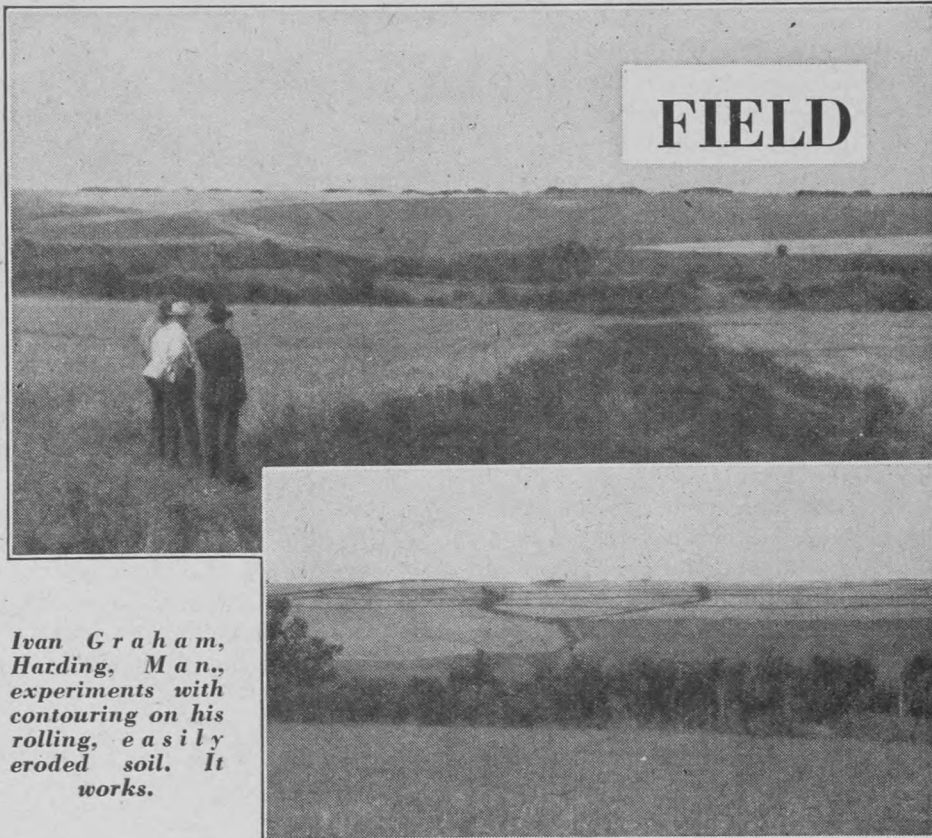
In another field which slopes sharply and was subject to severe erosion, he has developed his own pattern of grass strips leading to a central waterway for run-off water. He realized that water falling on a fairly steep slope must move downward and also that more of it could be held for the soil if its fall could be slowed up. The loss of soil could be best avoided by having it move downward over grassy runways. The grass strips in this second field were laid out more or less on the contour so as to lead surplus water not held by the soil into a central runway which carries it to the foot of the slope. "This summer," said Mr. Graham, "this field which is usually a bad field to run off water, held after heavy rains, despite the fact that it was in summerfallow."

On another farm not far away, there was a good illustration of what happens when no precautions are taken. The run-off from a field carrying quite a heavy slope had found its way down the fence line and eventually gouged out a deep erosion channel which bored its way through the fence line and for a considerable distance into a neighbor's low lying field.

Crop Rotation

THE most generally used crop rotations in southeastern Saskatchewan are the two-year rotation of fallow, followed by grain and the three-year, fallow, grain, grain, rotation. R. N. McIver, Dominion Experimental Station, Indian Head, Sask., has recently completed a research

FIELD



Ivan Graham, Harding, Man., experiments with contouring on his rolling, easily eroded soil. It works.

project designed to indicate which of these rotations will net the highest return per acre.

The most important problems to be considered in comparing the rotations were the amount of reserve soil moisture and the degree of insect and weed infestation. The period of the study was 1941 to 1948—a period quite favorable from the moisture standpoint over most of the southeastern area.

In this period the three-year rotation netted a higher return per acre on all sub-stations in southeastern Saskatchewan. The difference between the two rotations was greatest on the stations at Alameda, Wawota and Yorkton in eastern Saskatchewan, and decreased westward to the stations in east central Saskatchewan.

A factor to be considered is that a serious infestation of perennial weeds can more easily be eradicated by the use of a two-year rotation.

In deciding whether to sow grain a second time it is advisable to check the amount of reserve soil moisture in the early spring. The moisture should be down to a depth of 26 inches in a loam soil and somewhat less in a heavier-textured soil to be assured of an average yield of stubble crop. The soil is considered moist if it will hold together after being pressed into a ball in the hand. If the soil is dry, the crop will depend on more than average rainfall during the current year.

A further factor to be considered this year is the infestation of grasshoppers and sawflies, particularly in east central Saskatchewan. Coarse grains and Rescue wheat will keep sawfly damage at a low level. However, areas in crop last year may harbor large numbers of grasshopper eggs, and stubble crops may be seriously damaged unless a poisoning program is adopted. In grasshopper-infested areas it might be profitable to seed very little stubble crop.

Cereal Varieties For 1949

MANITOBA and Saskatchewan have released the findings of their Cereal Variety Committees, and have published the recommendations with respect to the cereal crops that give the highest level of production in the different areas of each of the two provinces.

In Manitoba it was found that al-

though Saunders wheat matured one day earlier than Redman and two days earlier than Thatcher, it yielded less than either of these varieties. Three-year averages of tests conducted indicate that it also yields less than Regent. Saunders is not recommended for Manitoba.

The Saskatchewan Cereal Committee arrived at similar conclusions with respect to Saunders. They agreed that it could be seeded on a trial basis in northern Saskatchewan.

Recommendations for Manitoba are not changed greatly from a year ago. Redman, Thatcher and Regent wheat are recommended for all zones, and Renown has been dropped. There is no change in the recommended varieties of Durum wheat. The only change in the recommendations for oats is the dropping of Vanguard from the recommended list in Zone 2A. There are no changes in the recommendations for malting barley, and the only change in the feed barley recommendations is the addition of Montcalm for all zones. There are no changes in the recommendations for spring and winter rye and field peas but Royal flax has slipped to a secondary position, following Dakota and Rocket, in Zones 1, 2A, 2B and 2C.

The changes from the cereal variety recommendations for Saskatchewan as listed in last year's Guide are as follows: Wheat—Apex is no longer recommended for Zones 2E and 2F except in areas where it does particularly well. Redman is added to the recommended varieties in Zone 2E and Thatcher in Zone 3H. Oats: Fortune is added in Zone 2C. Barley: Vantage replaces Plush in Zones 2A and 2B. Plush is no longer recommended in Zones 3A, 3D and 3F. Vantage is added to Zone 4A. Flax: Dakota is added to the recommended varieties in Zones 2A, 2B, 2D, 2E, 3C and 3H and the new variety Rocket in Zone 3F. Royal is dropped from Zone 3A and Redwing from Zone 3E.

It should be borne in mind that the fact that a variety is no longer recommended does not mean that it has become inferior—merely that a variety has been proven superior within a given area. Full details for all zones are available from nearest agricultural representatives, the provincial universities, or experimental stations.

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Straw-Cutters For Combines

I SAW a small article in the Guide some time ago, on stubble burning. I quite agree with what the writer says. However, to prevent stubble burning something more than sounding a warning is necessary.

In this district it is almost impossible to plant a second crop with a heavy crop of combine straw spread on the land, without burning the straw. If one could plant the crop, the straw smothers it in my experience.

If there was a good straw-cutter on the combine the straw could be worked or plowed in. I wrote the Massey-Harris Company, giving them these facts and asked them to make one, but they would not do it.

If you could support a campaign to equip combines with straw-cutters, it would go a long way to prevent stubble burning, but unless one summer-fallows every second year so the heavy coat of straw can be worked in, there is no choice, only to burn off the straw.—H. E. Robinson, Carstairs, Alta.

How Big A Dugout?

THE dugout must provide a depth and a volume of water to provide water for domestic use, livestock or irrigation use. Evaporation and seepage can be expected to cause an average yearly loss of three to four feet. Also at freeze-up it is advisable to have a reserve depth of at least three or four feet remaining in the dugout, to insure a continuous supply of fresh water. If the water from the dugout is to be used during the winter it should contain five or six feet of water at freeze-up, to prevent freezing to the bottom.

When the dugout is constructed plan to get a minimum depth of eight feet, in addition to the water actually used.

If water is to be used the whole year round mainly for livestock and domestic supply the Dominion Experimental Farm at Swift Current advises a minimum depth of 14 feet. If only a summer supply of water is required 12 feet is sufficient. If seepage is not excessive these depths should prove adequate.

The dimensions of the dugout can be varied easily to provide the required capacity. If the ends of the dugout slope down one foot in every three feet towards the centre, and the sides slope one foot for every foot and a half toward the centre, a dugout 100 feet by 60 feet will provide a year round water supply for domestic use and 10 to 15 head of livestock. A dugout 150 feet by 75 feet would provide water for summer domestic use and 100 to 125 head of stock, or year round domestic use, and 50 head of stock.

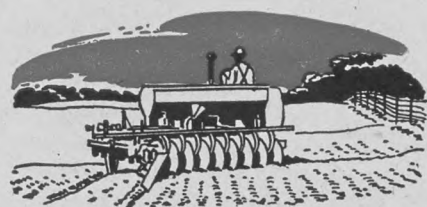
It is considered preferable to have a separate dugout for irrigation purposes, so that it can be pumped dry by fall. A dugout 150 feet by 75 feet and 12 feet deep will provide enough water to irrigate one and one-half acres.

A dugout of this size should have a drainage area of from 120 acres in flat watersheds, to about 70 acres in more rolling areas, as in many parts of southwestern Saskatchewan. A smaller dugout, of about 100 feet by 60 feet will require about half the drainage area. Local conditions will influence the area required.

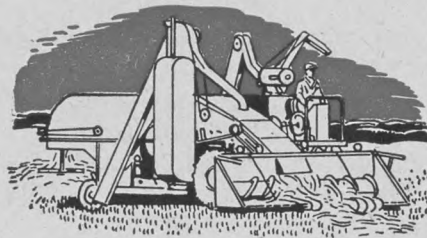


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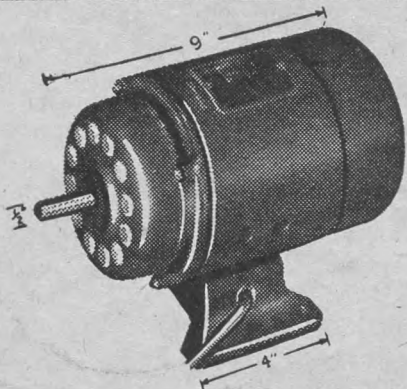


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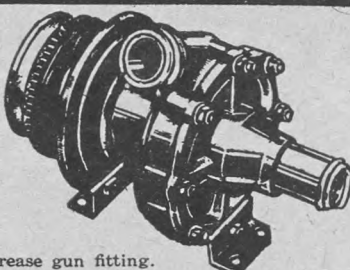
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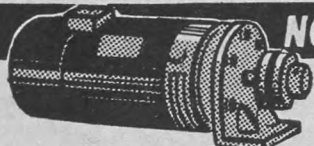
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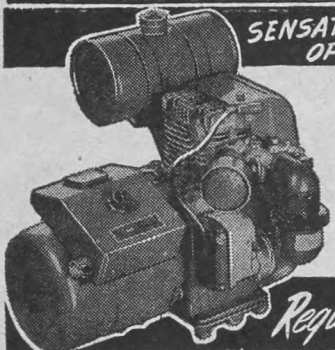
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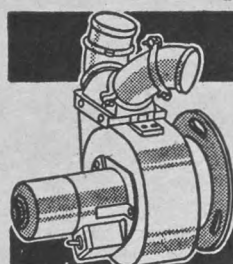
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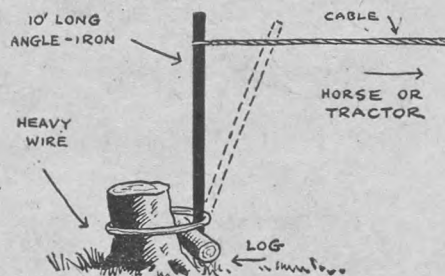
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Cold weather and blocked roads make shop time available.

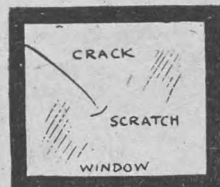
Stump Puller

A simple but fairly powerful stump puller for removing small stumps can be made by applying the principle of the lever. Throw a loop of chain or wire cable around the stump loosely enough to permit a 10 to 12-foot piece of angle iron, T-iron or I-beam



to stand upright inside the loop and separate it from the stump by a small piece of log or a strong timber. By fastening a cable to the top of the upright angle iron, even one horse will be able to exert considerable force. With a good, heavy upright, a tractor can be used for a bigger stump. —Albert Loisch.

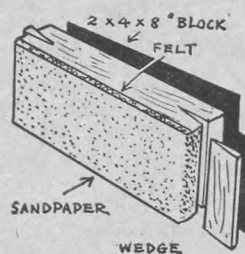
Glass Crack



If a short crack appears in a window or door pane of glass, score a short arc not more than half an inch in length on both sides of the pane near the end of the crack. Use a glass cutter carefully and the crack will not extend any farther. —J.J.A.

Sanding Block

For using sandpaper, convenience is served by making a sanding block from a small piece of 2x4-inch slotted at each end to receive the turned edges of the sandpaper and thin hardwood wedges. A more resilient and satisfactory backing for the sandpaper is provided if a strip of felt is placed next to the block, with the sandpaper over it. This should be glued to the block and only the sandpaper wedged in at the end. —T. B.

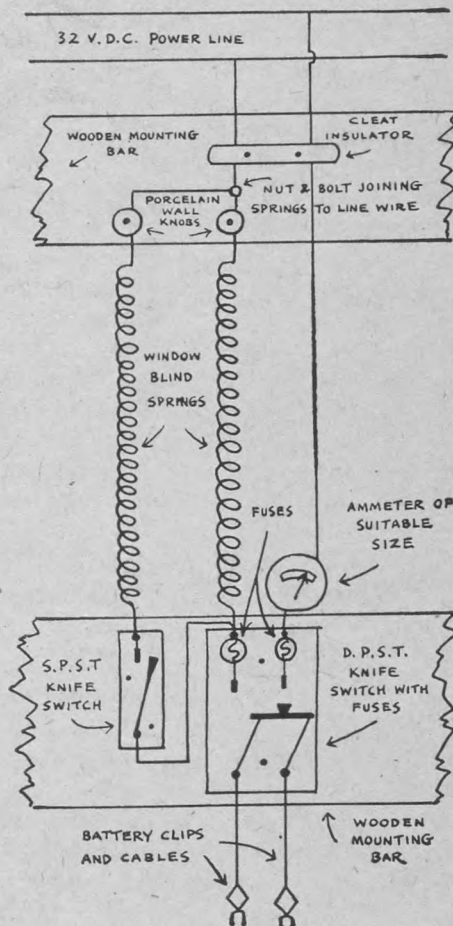


Battery Charger

Here is a set-up which I made for charging two or six-volt batteries from a 32-volt plant. The drawing is pretty well self-explanatory. For resistors I used steel springs from old window blinds stretched to 18 inches or two feet. The spring will pass about eight amperes on a six-volt load and about 10 amperes to a two-volt battery. If used for very light service the small switch (lower left) and the spring to it, can be omitted. The mounting bars, top and bottom, need to be attached to the wall so as to hold the springs at least three inches from the wall, since these get hot.

For a double-spring outfit, 30 amp. fuses are satisfactory, and 20 amp. fuses for a single-spring outfit. One precaution is necessary in starting the charger; the small switch should be open until the first coil is warmed up. When cold, each spring draws 20

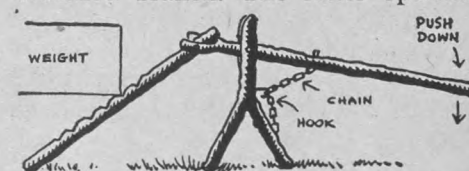
amps., so if both were connected at the beginning, they would pass 40 amperes and probably blow a fuse on the main switchboard, if there was much load already on the line. When used for the first time, springs will smoke for a few seconds. Located in



the garage, the arrangement can be used to charge a rundown battery without removing it. To do this, extend the battery cables (bottom) and clip on the car battery, or handier still, if you know the polarity of your car, clip it to the output terminal of the cutout and the frame of the car or generator. Some cars use positive as ground and some use negative. When connections are made to the cutout and ground instead of direct to the battery the charging current will register on the car's ammeter as well. Wiring of the charging unit need not be done on polarity, but the output cables need to be checked for polarity before connecting to a battery or car. Connect the charging unit to the main line of a 32-volt plant if the latter is in the same building where the charger is used, but if a 32-volt plant is located elsewhere, and the building where the charger is used has its own fuse block, connections should be made to the line on the plant side of the block. —Cliff Dawson.

Leverage Horse

Heavy lifting jobs are made easier, very often, by the use of a leverage horse, which is simply made from two stout tree branches and a third crotched branch. The latter operates



as a fulcrum and one of the others as a lever. The third branch is suitably notched to keep the weight from slipping. A chain affixed firmly, as shown, to the lever and to one of the feet of the fulcrum can be used to regulate the desired leverage by hooking the appropriate link to a hook set into the upright portion of the fulcrum. —S. C.



Above is a snapshot of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Hubic and their family of fifteen. Mr. and Mrs. Hubic are oldtimers in the Pelly district and also successful farmers. The Pelly farm consists of two sections of land. An interesting feature of the farm is a large apiary located in the fine garden near their home. The family of fifteen were all born in the Pelly district and they are all at home except one daughter, the wife of Mr. Earl Schow. The snapshot was taken at a family picnic held at Crystal Lake.

A FAMILY WITHIN A FAMILY

U.G.G. is very proud to print the photograph reproduced at the top of this page of the Hubic family and to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Alex Hubic and indeed every member of this fine family group of farmer-co-operators.



Founded forty-two years ago as a co-operative on the same basis as the Rochdale Pioneers and like its famous British counterpart (still going strong!) U.G.G. is one of the great romances of co-operative farm business on this American continent in the present century.

- U.G.G. — as a farmer-owned co-operative — is made up of many thousands of Western farmers who co-operate together in handling grain and in the purchase and distribution of supplies for farm and home through their own U.G.G. business family.
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MANGANESE is important, too. Without proper amounts of it you won't hatch the highest possible number of chicks. Manganese aids rapid growth in young birds. Helps prevent costly slumps in egg laying. **COPPER** is also important, and **IODINE**, especially if you are feeding soybean oil meal.

Because it supplies all these "trace elements" in balanced amounts, Pratts Poultry Regulator is a splendid all-year tonic for birds. Pays for itself many times over in results. Made by a Company with 76 years' experience.

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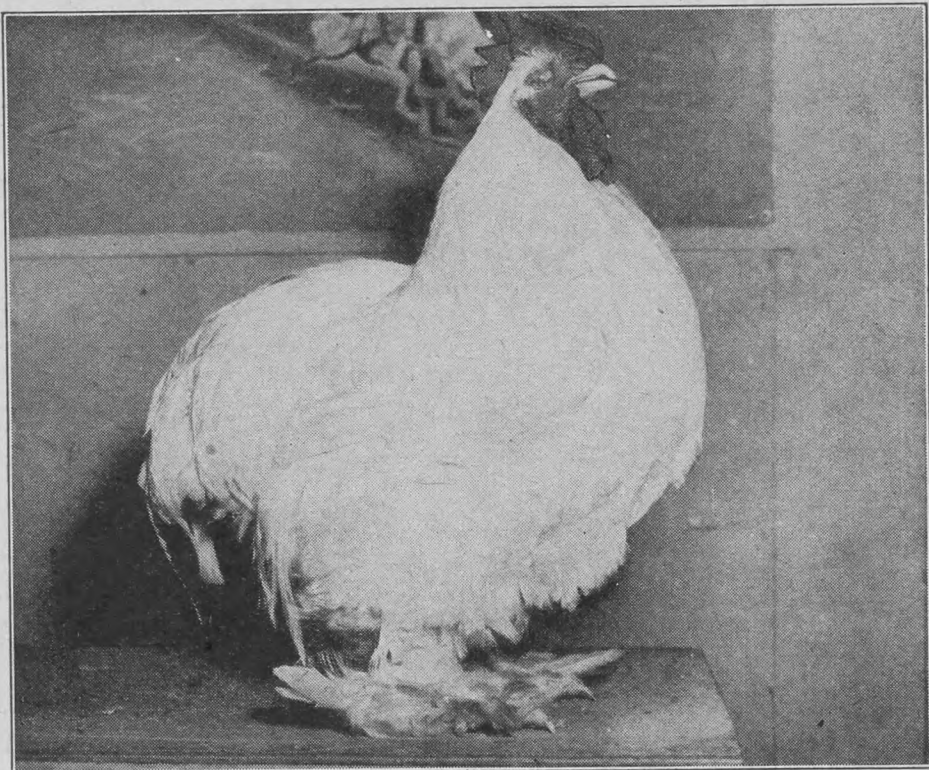
that early hatched chicks are from 51% to 78% more profitable than late chicks. That's a lot of extra profit. Start your chicks early this year in January, February and March. Start Top Notch chicks, you can depend on them to give you high egg production. Also laying and ready-to-lay pullets for immediate delivery.

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POULTRY

Conducted by PROF. W. J. RAE, University of Saskatchewan.



[Photo: Nat. Film Board]

Poultry breeders have secured breeds for nearly every purpose and fancy—color, show, eggs, fighting and meat.

Caring For The Males

IT is often stated that the male is 10 to 15 times as valuable as a hen. This is true if only because that is the ratio of the two sexes in the breeding pens. Also, the male has an equal influence upon growth and production characteristics of the chicks to be hatched from the fertile eggs. Sometimes there is a problem in the feeding of males which is often overlooked.

In order to induce the hens to eat more mash, grain consumption is restricted, usually being fed in limited quantities twice a day. The males do not take so readily to mash and probably do not get sufficient grain during the short grain-feeding periods to maintain good body condition. The result is a loss in body weight, and inactivity. Poor fertility may be directly traced to this condition.

One method of providing more grain for the cockerels is to fasten several boxes of grain on the wall above the reach of the hens yet not too high for the males to reach in comfort. A narrow box will prevent the hens from perching on the edge. Another practice is to divide the males into two groups and alternate the groups at least every second day. Keep those males not in use, in a coop out of sight of the pen, and supply them with whole grains and water. Both practices have proved very satisfactory.

The Common Chicken Louse

BECAUSE of the ease with which lice can be controlled, there is no reason why any poultry should suffer from these external parasites. A heavy infestation of lice results in lowered production. Since the lice spend their entire life cycle on the chicken, it is necessary to treat the birds in order to eradicate these pests.

There are several dusting powders which are very effective. Sodium fluoride or derris root powder are both very satisfactory. It is applied to the fluff around the vent of the bird, and if the infestation is heavy, under the wings. A second application some 7 to 10 days later is essential since these powders do not affect the eggs. DDT (three per cent) is as good as the other

dusting powders and the treatment with this insecticide must also be repeated.

All dusting powders require the handling of individual birds. Black Leaf 40 is a liquid, which can be applied to the perches just before the birds go to roost. Ample ventilation is essential so do not use this liquid until the weather is sufficiently warm so that the windows can be left open. The treatment must also be repeated a week or 10 days later.

One pound of dusting powder will do 100 birds and eight ounces of Black Leaf 40 will do 100 feet of roosts.

"Beat Yourself"

"BEAT Yourself" was the slogan adopted by the poultrymen attending the 11th annual convention of the Western Canada Hatchery Federation held in Calgary, October 4-7. We should never be so self-satisfied as to rest on our laurels. There is still room for improvement not only in breeding but also feeding and the management of a poultry flock. The processor can do a still better job in handling eggs and poultry and the hatcheryman and storekeeper can do a finer job of distributing their respective products. Therefore, let 1949 be bigger and better in the poultry field.

Hormones in Poultry Feeding

SINCE so much publicity has been given to the results of certain experimental trials designed to test the value of certain hormones in fattening chickens it seems timely to suggest caution in their use. It is quite true that such estrogenic compounds as diethylstilbestrol and dianisylhexene produce maximum fattening results when introduced into the fattening cockerel by means of the pellet method, but there still is a dearth of information regarding the effect on humans, of handling this estrogenic feed. The commercial use of these compounds is still in the experimental stage and no one should attempt to use them without making full inquiry as to the proper method of administration and knowing the precautions necessary to make their use safe to themselves.

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17.00 9.00 4.50	18.00 9.50 4.75	
34.00 17.50 8.75	36.00 18.50 9.25	
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What, No Turkey!

A chain of causes leads to
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ONE day last month two white-collared Winnipeggers—fellows who weren't working for peanuts—commiserated with each other over their restaurant lunch that for the first time in 30 years of married life they could not afford a turkey for Christmas dinner. On the same day a Manitoba farmer drove away from one of the nearby packing plants with a cheque for \$1,400 for one truckload of gobblers. Elsewhere many farmers must have been regretting that they did not have more birds to market at the present remunerative prices.

What is happening in the turkey business to cause such an upset?

To begin with the growing of turkeys has been on the decline all over the West since 1942. In that year Saskatchewan's turkey population was over 1,600,000. This year it will be something to the order of 300,000. The continuous drop is variously attributed to scarcity of labor, high feed costs, relatively greater profits from other undertakings, graduated income tax, growing losses from coyotes and foxes, especially the latter, and some unfavorably wet seasons for growing poults.

The reduction noted in Saskatchewan is true of the two adjoining provinces in lesser degree. In Saskatchewan one has to go back to 1920 to find a smaller output of turkey meat. Manitoba hasn't had as bad a year since 1926.

The turkey business reflects the larger livestock picture. It reacts in the same way to the changing feed situation. When bacon production first threatened to fall below the British contract tonnage, the federal department of agriculture worked out the free freight and feed bonus policies. The federal exchequer paid the freight on feed shipped from the prairies to eastern feed lots, and for a time bonused it forby, at the rate of 25c a bushel for barley and 10c a bushel for oats. Relatively speaking the eastern feeder got the cheapest feed of his life. The West's natural advantage in livestock production was wiped out with a stroke of the pen.

To this, Eastern turkey production reacted favorably. The decline in production was arrested. In some places turkeys actually increased in number. The centre of gravity in turkey growing moved from West to East.

In November 1947 Mr. Abbott launched his dollar-saving program. It contained a provision which forbade the importation of turkey hatching eggs. Now, be it known, the Americans have in quite recent times perfected a medium-sized, rapidly maturing type of broad-breasted turkey which has grown into great popularity with consumers. Canadian breeders have not, in the main, adopted this new strain of bird. They have stayed with the larger type. When Mr. Abbott's hatchet dropped they could not begin to satisfy the home market for the desired type of hatching eggs.

The National Poultry Council went into action as soon as it was realized what would happen to 1948 production. Eventually it persuaded the minister to relent, but by this time it was too late, besides which high-grade

(Turn to page 89)

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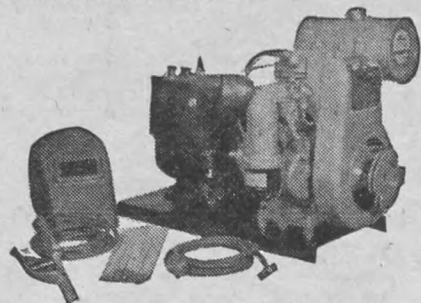
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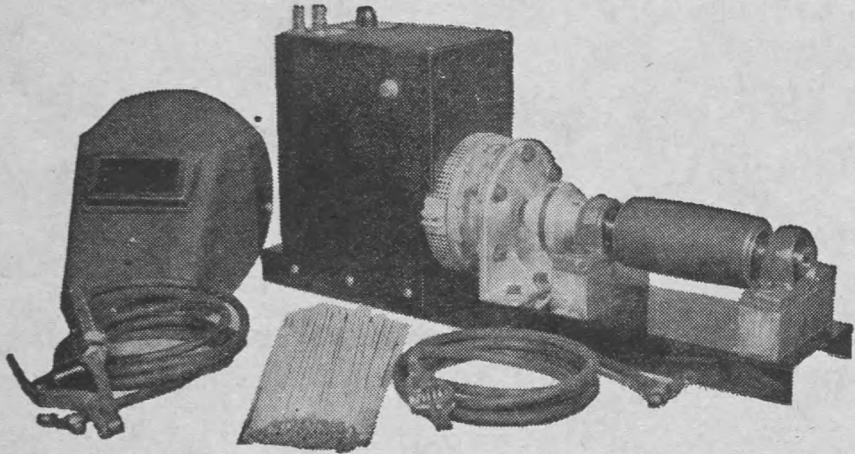
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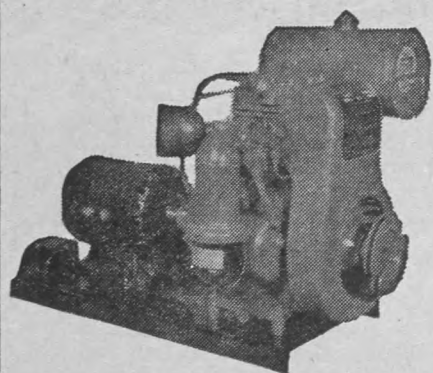
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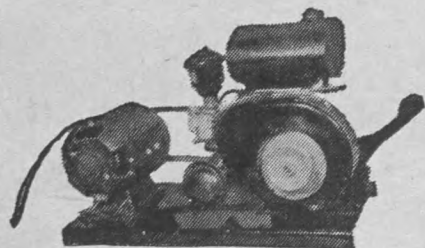
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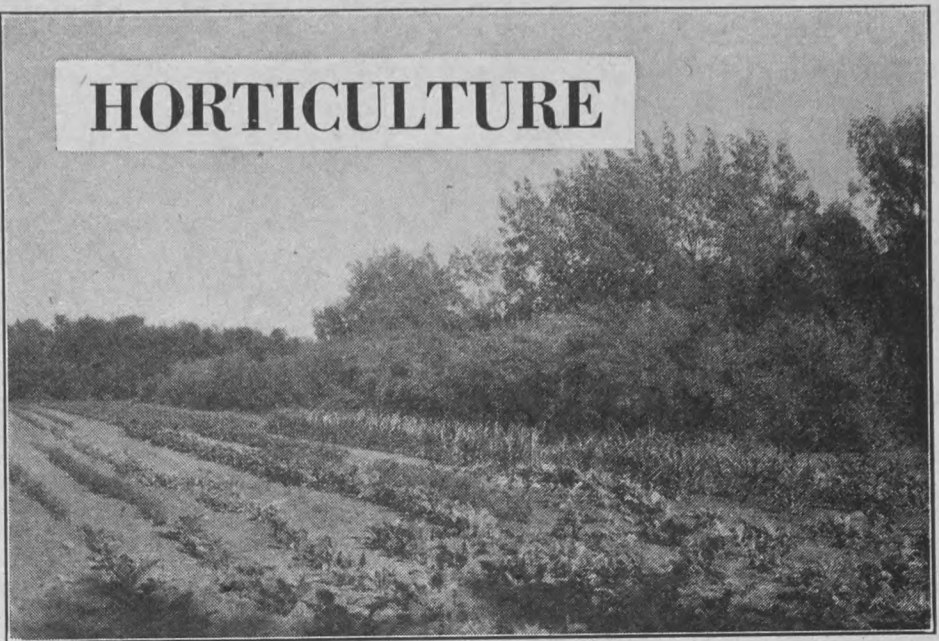
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HORTICULTURE



Now is the time to plan the farm garden. This one was on the farm of James Rugg and Sons, Elstow, Sask.

A Test Winter

HORTICULTURISTS of the University of Minnesota have been examining the conditions leading to a "test" winter, meaning a winter during which there is severe injury or killing. W. G. Brierley, Division of Horticulture, University of Minnesota, points out that it is easy to conclude that there has been a test winter but not so easy to determine the cause of the killing. Arguments involve several factors, and if only one of these factors is unfavorable severe injury may result.

It is fairly well understood that any woody plant must be in good, vigorous condition to withstand winter conditions. Weak growth or insect or disease injury may prevent a tree or other woody plant from meeting severe conditions successfully. Young trees seldom go into a severe winter as fully prepared as older trees. A very heavy crop may make a tree less able to stand test winters; and it is well known that maturity of the wood is important. It is pointed out that one reason why currants are seldom injured to any great extent is that their wood matures early, whereas grapes, on the contrary, are likely to continue to grow until a freeze kills the tips of the shoots. Dry weather in the fall may cause earlier maturity, but prolonged drought in late summer and fall is likely to interfere with the manufacture and storage of plant foods.

Thus, poor condition and immaturity may combine to render trees susceptible to a test winter. There is also the factor of winter winds, which dry out the plant. This is sometimes very serious on the western plains where dry winds are experienced over a long period.

Resistance to cold is considered to depend on several factors. One of these is dormancy. This means the inability of the live plant to grow owing to environmental conditions. Generally it means temperatures low enough to prevent growth. Dormancy may be broken by temporary warmer weather sufficient to encourage only slight development of buds: Winter resistance is then lost and severe injury may follow.

Plants also experience a rest period in winter which may be associated with dormancy. When properly resting they cannot grow, even if conditions for growth are favorable. Rest, we are told, centres in the buds and begins as soon as the buds are fully

developed. It is believed that in some way, rest constitutes an internal control of some kind in the plant, which continues until the strength of this control is weakened, perhaps by low temperatures. "This explains," says Mr. Brierley, "why there is usually no growth in warm, moist weather in late October or November, unless there has been enough cold weather by that time to break rest."

Hardiness may also depend on the time and rate at which cold resistance is developed by the plant and also on the lowest temperature the plant can withstand under the most favorable conditions. Generally, when even year-old growth is subjected to gradually lowered temperatures, it can withstand a degree of cold impossible when the temperature changes are sharp and quick. The parts of the plant may also vary in cold resistance, but not too much is known specifically about this factor, nor the cause of and the degree of variability of hardiness in individual varieties and the different portions of individual plants. Professor Brierley says: "It seems possible that varieties that are able to develop the same degree of initial cold resistance may differ in their ability to re-harden. Possibly those that can regain hardiness rapidly after one spell are the ones we usually have rated as hardy. It will be interesting to work on that phase of the problem."

Three Apple-Crabs

THREE varieties of apple-crabs, Rescue, Trail and a numbered selection at Morden, M352, have recently received favorable comment from C. R. Ure, Tree Fruit Specialist at Morden. Mr. Ure describes Rescue as of fine quality, though it has a short season and soon becomes mealy. He believes it should find a place in all northern orchards because of its very hardy, medium-tall, rounded tree and its bright red, small fruit, which ripens about the third week in August.

The second variety is Trail, a sister cross to Rescue, both developed at the Dominion Experimental Station, Rosthern. "Trail," says Mr. Ure, "ripens after Rescue, keeps into early winter and its crisp, juicy, sweet flavor is liked by all. It may be too tender for some districts, in which case M352 is suggested for trial." This is a Dolgo-Haraldson cross developed at Morden which ripens after Trail, keeps longer under good storage conditions, is more sprightly acid in flavor and is bright, dark red in color, crisp and juicy.



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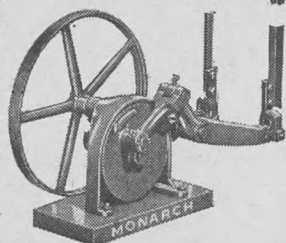
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Importance Of Nitrogen

EVERY horticulturist, whether interested in fruit trees, flowers, grass or woody ornamentals, should have a good understanding of the importance of nitrogen to plants and the way by which this plant food is supplied. One reason is that of all nutrient elements needed by plants, nitrogen is a limiting factor more often than any other element. Curiously enough, this is not because the total nitrogen supply is actually deficient, but because a very large part of the nitrogen in soils is not available so that the plant can use it. Thus it might be possible for a plant actually to weaken and die while the soil around was very liberally supplied with nitrogen which it could not use.

To understand this we must realize that the main supply of nitrogen in the soil is in the form of slowly decomposing or decaying vegetable material. As this material breaks down or decomposes, whether it be leaves, grass, old roots or fruits that have dropped to the ground, various nitrogenous compounds such as protein are formed. These, however, are not available to the plant and must first be broken down further by bacteria. One group of bacteria first changes them into amino acids, then they are changed to ammonia, next to nitrites and finally into nitrates. This final change to nitrates must take place before the plant roots can utilize the nitrogen, since only the nitrates are soluble in water.

Thus, after the processes of decay have ultimately occurred through a series of steps caused by one or more forms of bacteria, the moisture surrounding the roots can then dissolve the nitrates in the soil, and in this form the nitrogen can be absorbed by the roots.

Trees and most plants which lack sufficient nitrogen are likely to show light green instead of rich, dark green foliage.

Iceland Poppies

THE newer forms of the Iceland poppy are a great asset in the perennial border. The pink-flowered and the red-flowered forms of this plant are very attractive and, when they become better known, they will be widely used. Improved varieties of the yellow-flowered form are available and these, too, will aid in giving the plant the place it deserves in gardening with perennials.

One of the pinks stands out above other forms, in the opinion of the writer, and should be used more than it is at present. This is the crimson-flowered form of the maiden pink (*Dianthus deltoides*). It is very hardy and is excellent for any use where a perennial six to eight inches high is desired.

A good substitute for the older and pale-flowered varieties of the pyrethrum is the newer red-flowered varieties. The flowers of the latter are large and are borne on strong stems and are well suited both for cutting and for garden decoration.

The Golden Marguerite (*Anthemis kelwayi*), has not been given the place it deserves in perennial borders. This plant produces, in great numbers, large yellow daisy-like flowers over a long period. In the garden it makes a great show and, as a cut flower, it is not without value.—C. F. Patterson.

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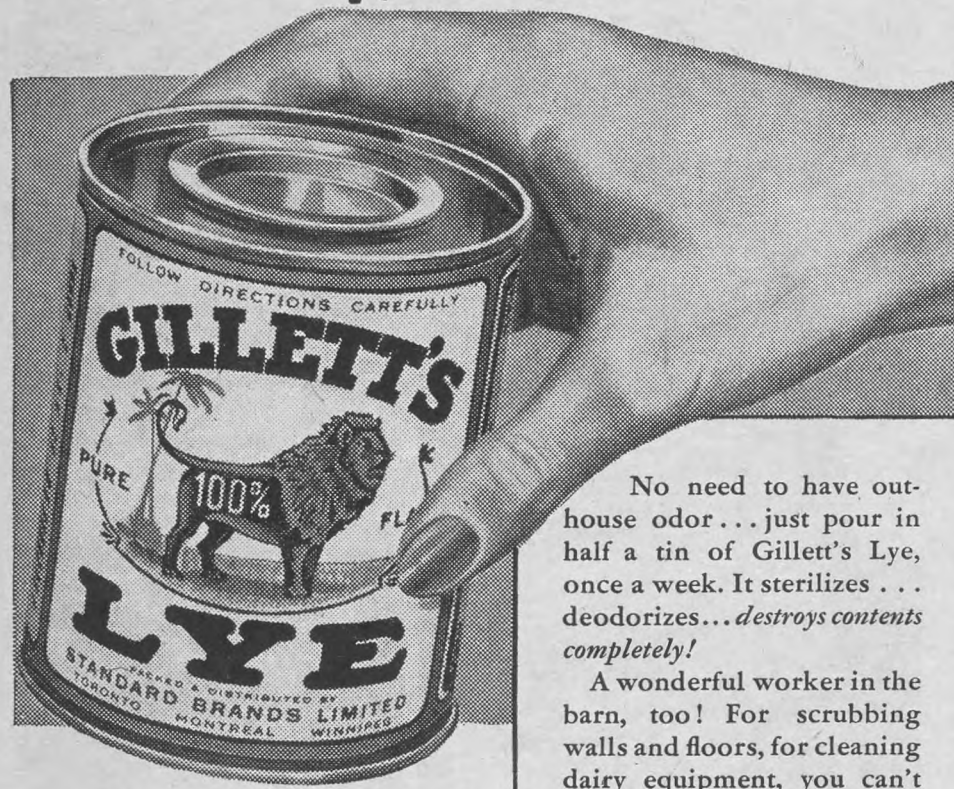
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MONTHLY

Difficulties With Flax

Difficulties which the Dominion Government is experiencing this year in marketing flax were mentioned at Calgary recently in the course of an address to the U.F.A. annual meeting, by the Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce. One reason for the inability of this country to find a satisfactory export outlet for flax lies in the fact that the Government of the United States has declared flaxseed to be a surplus commodity in that country. The effect of the declaration is to prevent the use of E.R.P. funds in purchase of flaxseed outside of United States, to be sent to countries receiving direct aid under the Marshall Plan. It might have been thought that a market could be found in Great Britain, which imports flaxseed extensively, for Canadian flax is at present cheaper than that offered by other countries. Mr. Howe explained that Great Britain, which had historically got most of its flax from Argentina, did not want to disrupt that channel of trade and consequently did not wish to buy Canadian flax.

For several years past flax has been handled differently from all other grains, with the Government buying outright at a fixed price all flaxseed produced, reselling part of it in Canada, sometimes at a loss, and exporting the surplus, usually at a profit which offset losses on domestic sales. The fixed price for 1947-48 was set on the basis of \$5.00 per bushel, later increased to \$5.50, because of profits expected on exports. However, the Government was left with an unexportable surplus at the year end, on which it may experience a considerable loss.

For the current crop year the Government planned to get out of the flax business. It removed price ceilings and other market restraints, and although before seeding it offered a minimum guaranteed price basis of \$4.00 per bushel, it apparently expected that it would not have to buy any flax on that basis. The corresponding price basis in the United States, guaranteed by the Government there was \$6.00 per bushel.

Flax production was much larger than expected, both in Canada and in the United States. The latter country, instead of being, as formerly, an eager buyer of Canada's export surplus, has embargoed imports, and also because it has a surplus for export, refuses to allow European Recovery Plan funds to be used in buying Canadian flax for European countries.

There was for a time an acute world shortage of oils and fats, because of which the Governments of Canada and the United States guaranteed prices of flaxseed intended to stimulate production. That incentive has been unexpectedly successful, and Canada now has a large surplus, for which there are no adequate export outlets. The market has accordingly dropped to a level which is forcing the Government to make good its guarantee by buying flax at \$4.00 per bushel. It may have to buy most of the crop and carry the surplus for a year or more.

It should be added that the fixed prices offered for flaxseed during recent years were not support prices

in the ordinary sense of the word. Instead, they were incentive prices. In view of the flax surplus which now exists, the Government may be reluctant to offer any such guarantee for 1949.

Wheat Agreement Possible

On January 24 efforts to bring into being an international wheat agreement will be renewed at Washington with representatives present from exporting and importing countries.

Such an agreement was actually negotiated at Washington early in 1948 but failed to become effective when Congress of the United States refused to ratify it. Washington had followed unsuccessful negotiations at London in 1947, which were brought to an end when the Government of Great Britain gave notice that a proposed price schedule was unacceptable.

The result of the November elections in the United States, with the return of the Truman administration, meant that a renewed effort for such an agreement would be made; and that with Democrats in control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate ratification of any agreement reached would be reasonably likely.

Last year's agreement covered the export of 500 million bushels annually for five years, with Canada supplying 230 million bushels, the United States 185 million bushels, and Australia 85 million bushels, at prices not to exceed \$2.00 per bushel for No. 1 Northern wheat in store at lakehead terminals. The signatory importing countries bound themselves to take specified quantities of wheat up to a total of 500 million bushels annually, at minimum prices, beginning at \$1.50 per bushel and decreasing by 10 cents per bushel annually to a level of \$1.10 in 1952-53. Had the agreement operated, Canada would have been selling wheat this year to countries other than Great Britain at prices less than those which have actually prevailed. As an offset to accepting a lower price, Canada would have had certain guarantees for the next four years, the value of which would depend on the future course of market prices and on economic recovery in Europe. It must be remembered that no agreement confined to wheat alone can ensure the ability of European countries to buy and pay for wheat during the years which lie immediately ahead. At the present time the ability of Canada to sell wheat in export markets depends to a very large extent upon the continued willingness of the United States to furnish funds for European relief under the Marshall Plan.

It cannot be assumed that the present attitude of the United States means that it will be simple to bring about a wheat agreement or that nothing remains except for everyone to re-endorse last year's agreement. It was only with a good deal of difficulty that last year importing countries were persuaded to agree to the price schedule adopted, and most of them wanted provisions to ensure that wheat prices would decline during the next few years. While they did not object to a minimum price of \$2.00 per bushel for the first year, they wanted to see

COMMENTARY

the maximum price progressively lowered to correspond with the progressive lowering of the minimum price.

Quite conceivably, the importing countries will demand a lower price schedule than provided last year. They could argue, for example, that one of the benefits they expected was to get wheat at a maximum price of \$2.00 per bushel during the current year. Actually, except for Great Britain, they have had to pay Canada and United States in the neighborhood of \$2.40 per bushel. They may want some compensation for that by a lowering of the price schedule for subsequent years.

Another important point to remember is that last year, when negotiations were on, there was a desperate world shortage of wheat and importing countries were willing to sign an agreement, not so much because of the long-term effects but because they felt their chances of getting immediate supplies were thereby improved. Since that time there has been a very considerable betterment of the world food situation. Further, importing countries, including Great Britain, appear to believe that wheat prices are due to decline more rapidly and to a greater extent than was expected a year ago. They take note of the fact that tremendous grain crops were harvested in the United States last year, both of wheat and of all other grains. They also take note of the fact that present prospects for the American winter wheat crop are very good.

The Government of Canada gave full support to the negotiations of 1948, as it had done to those of the previous year. Consequently, Canadian Government representatives can be expected to work earnestly at Washington to reach an agreement. Such an attitude, however, does not necessarily mean that Canada will accept any agreement proposed or that anxiety to bring about an agreement will mean that Canada would willingly concur in a reduced price schedule or in a reduced allotment for exports from this country.

It must also be recognized that no matter what support is given by Canada to the idea, the successful negotiation and operation of an international wheat agreement will depend largely both upon the ideas of other countries and upon the effect of forces outside of the influence of this country. Broadly speaking, the success of negotiations at Washington will largely depend upon the ability of the United States and Great Britain to reach agreement. Many European countries are at the present time so dependent upon the United States for economic assistance that they could hardly afford to hold out against a policy which the Government of the United States desires to pursue. President Truman, in announcing arrangements for the Washington meeting, indicated a desire for participation by Russia and Argentina, which countries had held aloof from previous negotiations at London and at Washington. So far there is nothing to indicate the willingness of those countries to participate. Continued refusal on their

part to be associated with an international agreement might have an adverse effect upon negotiations between other countries.

Wheat Price Negotiations

By the time this page is read, the Governments of Canada and of Great Britain may have come to agreement on the price which is to be paid on 140 million bushels of wheat to be supplied by this country during 1949-50, the fourth and final year of the Wheat Contract between the two countries. Even after the agreed price is known, it will be important to recall some of the factors in the problem. One of the most important factors is the difficulty experienced by Great Britain in finding dollars with which to pay not only for wheat but also for other imports from Canada. Up to the present that difficulty has been met in part by grants and loans from Canada to Great Britain, and also by the use of some E.R.P. funds obtained from the United States. It has been questionable how long and to what extent the United States would allow use of such funds for purchases in Canada. It has also been questionable as to how far Canada would go in making additional loans without increasing inflationary tendencies in this country. This phase of the problem relates to the whole structure of international trade, and it is not easy to solve it in respect to a single commodity.

Next there was the difficulty of agreeing upon the probable "world price" for the crop year in question. Canadian opinion tends to believe that this will be in the neighborhood of \$2.00 per bushel, while purchasing countries not only hope for but expect a decline to lower levels. Next there was the question as to what amount should be included in the negotiated price as compensation to Canada for low prices at which wheat was furnished to Great Britain during the first half of the contract period. It is possible to give several different interpretations to the wording of the Contract in this respect, and it is by no means certain that British ideas in this respect correspond to those which have been held in Canada. Even, however, if Great Britain should admit that some substantial compensation was due to Canada, it would be almost certain that she could not make use of E.R.P. funds from the United States for this purpose. Under the terms of the contract Canada and the United Kingdom were to negotiate the price for the final year before December 31, 1948. So great, however, were the difficulties in the way that it was not surprising that the first negotiations did not succeed and that the whole matter had to be referred to the full Canadian Cabinet for consideration.

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MONTHLY COMMENTARY
United Grain Growers Limited
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BETTER CIGARETTES
WITH**

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CIGARETTE TOBACCO

Farm Prices

Continued from page 7

IT is possible to illustrate the extremely variable effects of these two ECA provisions by reference to two Canadian farm products—wheat and flax.

In July, 1946, Canada entered into a four-year contract with Britain to deliver a total of 600 million bushels of wheat. With the marketing of the 1949 crop this contract will be completed. The price Britain is to pay for the fourth and final year of its contract will have been announced before this article reaches our readers. It may not be clearly understood by many prairie farmers, however, that practically all of Canada's wheat shipments since April, 1948, have been paid for by Britain with American dollars provided her under the Marshall Plan (ECA). The stark and tragic fact is that Britain, though the centre of a great colonial empire and the focal point of the Commonwealth of Nations, has succeeded, by the very weight of her position and Imperial responsibilities, in warring herself into poverty after two world conflicts. In other words, she cannot eat, even her present limited diet, without borrowing the money with which to buy her food. Bread she must have, but the money with which to pay Canada comes from the American people via the Marshall Plan. Stated in its simplest form this is the result for Britain and for Canada, with respect to wheat, of the off-shore-purchases provision. In connection with wheat, however, it is important to know that while the United States has produced this year several hundred million bushels more wheat than she herself will consume, wheat has not been declared a surplus product, primarily, perhaps, because it is the chief bread grain and the principal food of the Western Hemisphere.

Flax is different. For years during the war, and up to at least late in 1947, flax and oil were declared to be extremely scarce throughout the world. These products are required not only for food, but are also used largely in industry. The Canadian Government, when flax was really needed, could never quite bring itself to pay enough to increase flax acreage substantially. After the war, however, when prices began to rise, flax prices were allowed to go as high as \$5.50 a bushel to the grower, while at present there is a floor of \$4.00 per bushel. The year 1948 has produced fairly good crops of most field products generally throughout the world and among them flax has increased remarkably. In 1948 flax production in Canada amounted to 17.7 million bushels from 1.9 million acres. Manitoba alone seeded a million acres to flax, whereas, for the five years before the war, she seeded 51,500 acres per year. Thus, at August, 1948, Canada had nearly 22 million bushels of flax to market, including carryover. Today, it is understood that flax crushing mills in Canada are idle. Linseed meal or oil cake is almost unprocurable. There is no available market for the quantity of linseed oil we have to sell.

The United States also increased her flax acreage (to 4.7 million acres) in 1948 and secured a crop of 80 million bushels. She also will have a surplus of about 22 million pounds of oil, in addition to 16 to 18 millions of

flaxseed. Flax has, therefore, been declared a surplus United States product and Marshall Plan funds are not available for Britain or other European countries to buy oil from Canada. Britain nevertheless, needs linseed oil, but is buying it from the Argentine where a surplus of 190 thousand metric tons of flaxseed is available. The Argentine price for oil is about \$640 per ton. Canada would sell at \$200 less per ton. Canada must also sell for dollars, but Britain can buy Argentine oil for sterling, or British pounds; thus Canada's market for linseed oil is cut off absolutely by ECA. Meanwhile, the Canadian livestock industry, which depends on oil cake to a very considerable extent if balanced rations are to be fed, will also be injured, since no oil cake is possible unless the flax can be crushed and the oil disposed of.

NOW let us look at the same dollar-food problem from another angle. If the United States does not want our flax or our potatoes or dried beans it is because she already has ample supplies or a surplus of her own of these products. Britain does not want them either, because she lacks the necessary dollars wherewith to buy them. She must make her dollars go as far as possible. Unless Canadians will buy more British products, she must use her limited supply of Marshall Plan dollars to buy only what she must buy in Canada and the United States. Consequently, Britain is endeavoring to secure as much as possible of her food supplies from other sterling or soft currency countries, such as Australia, New Zealand, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Poland and other countries where she can buy without dollars. She must get along without Nova Scotia apples or Canadian Beef. She cannot afford to buy our fresh shell eggs, which accounts for the fact that the British egg contract, announced at the time of the Conference, includes no shell eggs and was accordingly reduced in quantity from a peak of 89 to 46 million dozens.

Cheese is an extremely concentrated food which she can ill-afford to do without. Last year Canada delivered only about 32 out of 50 million pounds of cheese on our British contract. The cheese contract was again renewed (with ECA dollars) at 50 million pounds for 1948-49, but it seems unlikely that we will be able to fill this contract any better than in 1948.

A year ago there was some talk of Canada losing her British bacon contract, because Britain lacked enough dollars. We agreed to supply 195 million pounds but fell about eight per cent short of this amount. This year our contract is for 160 million pounds and it is suggested in some quarters that we may have difficulty in filling it.

OF course, Canada could guarantee a better market for Canadian farm products if we were to provide further credit to Britain and our other European customers, as we did toward the close of the war. Whether or not we can provide these further credits now or later, Parliament must determine. Such credits, however, must be for American dollars; and we should remember that during the last year or more we have had our own dollar shortage, which developed from the fact that we were buying far more goods in the United States than we

were exporting to that country. This left Canada very short of American dollars and credits to Britain and Europe will only be possible when we have accumulated sufficient dollars with which to back them up.

Canadian farmers hung up a record farm income in 1947 and have probably achieved another in 1948. The best opinions available seem to agree that farm income will continue at about the same rate during the first half or three-quarters of 1949, although net income, which is what really matters, may come down slightly, owing to gradually rising farm costs. What seems to be a fair inference from the Ottawa conference however, is this: The war and post-war prosperity may be expected to end before too long and people who prosper after that will work for it. No longer will it be so easy to make a twelve-months' income in five months, or to find a market for any product in any quantity we may produce it.

MEANWHILE there is a probable market available for our major farm products, even if serious problems are presented with respect to certain others. For some time to come our beef will probably find a satisfactory outlet in the United States. Pork could be marketed there to advantage now if it were available, though perhaps not a year from now if the spring crop of 60 million pigs (regarded as a probability) is secured. Our oilseed and rye crops need some readjustment. Dairying could stand an expansion. Wheat acreage will probably be increased this spring at the expense of flax and rye, even though the future, beyond July 31, is none too clear.

An effort is to be made at Washington this month to finally achieve an international wheat agreement. The United States killed the last one by the failure of The Congress to ratify it. What attitude Britain will now take, in view of lowered world wheat prices since a year ago, will be made evident in a few weeks.

Cash crops are in the position of greatest difficulty. Under the spur of war and post-war scarcities, Canadian farmers have been able to operate for immediate cash returns. From now on it would be well if more of them operated for long-time results. This means more attention to livestock and soil fertility, accompanied by coarse grains and hay and pasture crops where practicable. The forage crop seed business appears to be at its peak of prices. Egg production should be lowered somewhat this year. Wheat acreage should not be expanded very much, and pig numbers should be increased, particularly in the northern and more humid parts of the prairie provinces.

There is no reason to expect any sudden slump in general economic activity, and industrial production should continue at a relatively high level during 1949. Europe will continue to make some progress toward recovery; and Canada's balance of trade with the United States has shown substantial improvement during the past year. There is therefore, no cause for alarm among western farmers, but if the Ottawa conference has any lessons for Canadian Agriculture, the chief one is that while it is the farmer's business to produce, he should, in a period of uncertainty such as the present, produce as cautiously, but as expertly and abundantly as he can.

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You'll think I've got this Futures Market on the brain, but that's what we've been told should be done away with, so it's very important.

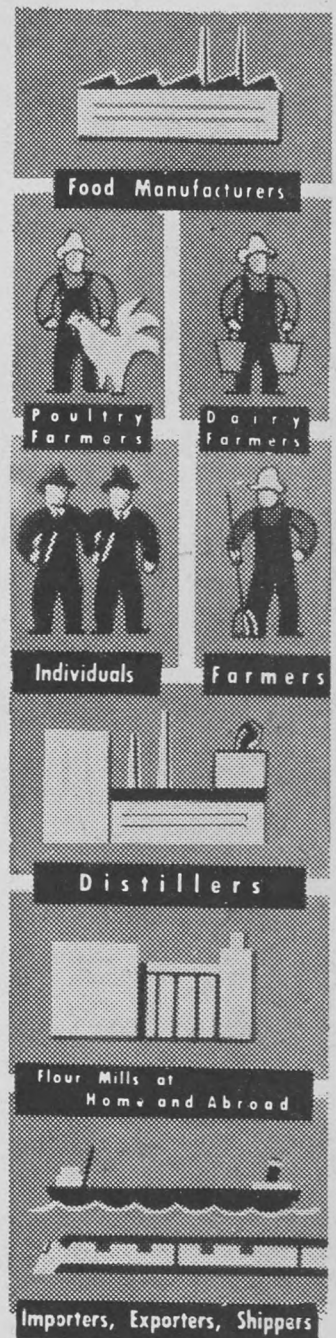
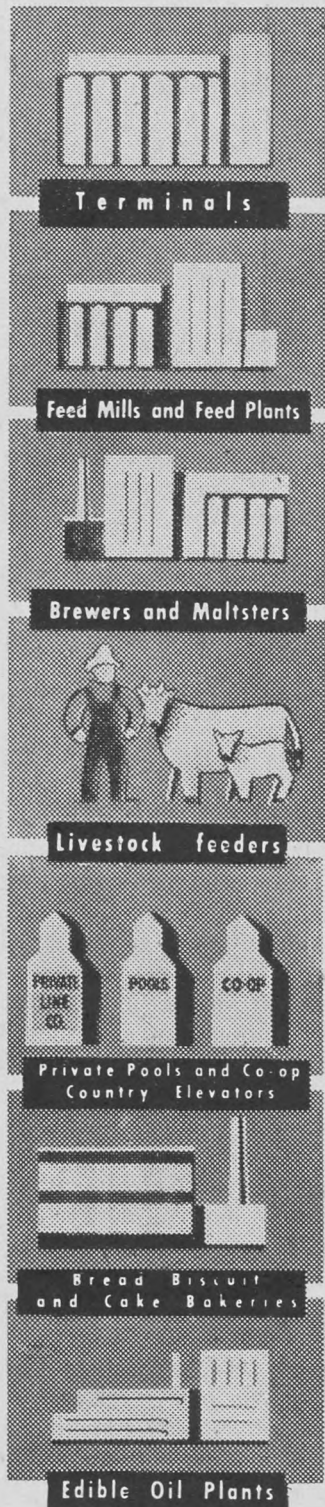
Excerpt from one of the letters featured in the booklet DEAR DAD

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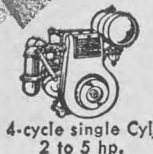


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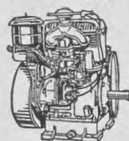
Wisconsin Air-Cooled Engines are available in a complete range of types and sizes — single cylinder, 2-cylinder and V-type 4-cylinder, from 2 to 30 hp. Ask your dealer about Wisconsin Air-Cooled Engines and Wisconsin-powered farm equipment. And write for free, illustrated pamphlet.



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These Clubs

Continued from page 10

A SOURCE of considerable pride to Mr. Bell, as district agriculturist was the fact that the Level Land Junior Grain Club held the Efficiency Shield in 1948, awarded for highest general efficiency in the province. It appears that during the years from 1936 to 1947, the clubs in the area had held the efficiency shield for the last eight years, the Morrin Club having won it three times in succession through 1942-44, with Drumheller, Level Land and Rockyford each taking it once.

Here is the place perhaps where tribute should be paid to the district club leaders who, in the judgment of all concerned, have been really responsible in large measure for the success of the district clubs. Mr. Bell pointed out that the majority of club leaders have had some direct agricultural training, either at the University of Alberta or at one of the Schools of Agriculture. Of these, four were university graduates and, in addition, five club leaders were formerly club members and began as leaders on reaching the age limit.

One of the most interesting competitions at the Drumheller Grain Club Fair is what is called the competition in "thematic" displays. Until 1947 each club had chosen its own subject and presented any kind of display it preferred. However, in 1947, a general scheme for all displays was selected for 1948 and the theme for 1948 was "soil conservation." About \$75 in prizes are awarded for this competition, but the money is the least important part. One year the Rockyford and Craigmyle clubs from outside the district decided to enter in this competition. The first time their displays were not too good, but the next year they were able to come back and win.

The clubs have come to value the trophies and shields rather than the amount of prize money, and there are probably more trophies and awards of this kind offered for junior club work in the district than in any other similar district in Alberta.

One of the indirect rewards for success in club work in the district is the opportunity provided by Drumheller citizens for club members to go on organized trips. In 1947 the 33 club winners were taken by bus to the School of Agriculture at Olds and the Dominion Experimental Station at Lacombe.

Last year, late in July some 30-odd club members went on a trip to the Provincial Horticulture Station at Brooks and the Dominion Experimental Station at Lethbridge. The Monday following my visit three truck loads of members were heading for Calgary, where they would visit far-famed St. George's Island, take a trip through a large baking establishment and one of the large Calgary flour mills.

TWO of the club leaders in the district have received coveted awards from The Canadian Council on Boys' and Girls' Club Work for long service with junior farm clubs. One of these was John A. MacKay, secretary of the Drumheller Board of Trade, who for 13 years was a club leader. Another was to W. D. Mac-

Donald, Shorthorn breeder at Grainger Alta., whose leadership extended over a period of 17 years.

Every year the Board of Trade of Drumheller gives a banquet to all of the junior club members who competed either in the Junior Grain Fair or the Calf Show. A year ago 232 were present. This is but another way of expressing the idea of community; and in the same category with it is the enterprise of The Drumheller Mail, which last year published a 20-page edition carrying as many as 16 articles by or about junior calf leaders or members. The issue appeared just before the Annual Calf Club Show and Sale and carried an appreciative editorial as well as a message of welcome from the Mayor of Drumheller.

It would be very difficult indeed to judge of what all this has meant or will mean in the future to the club members themselves, their leaders, advisors and supporters. It does illustrate, however, what can be accomplished for the benefit of all concerned when community spirit is poured out in one direction toward the encouragement of just one form of organization among farm young people.

Peace Tower

Continued from page 4

alism has been discerned to be at a low ebb in Quebec. Duplessis wiped up the earth with Adelard Godbout and his impotent "Rouges" last summer, and in the meantime, the Republican party has been sedulously fostered by those Quebecois who have successively been nationalists, Blocists, and anything else that was anti-English or anti-war. So they put up to run in Laval-Two Mountains, Honore Desy on the Republican ticket. The result was that Jean Baptiste, without too much pressure, still considers that the Liberals at Ottawa are the best bet, and accordingly gave Leopold Demers 4,472 against Desy's 2,211.

The moral here seems to be that the Liberals are still strong enough to win elections in P.Q., at any rate. This also partially compensates for the loss of a seat in "safe" Nova Scotia.

FINALLY, we invade Manitoba. In 100 out of 101 polls, Hon. Stuart Garson got 7,415 against his lady opponent's 2,946. Thus she lost her deposit. Here again, the first thing to be noted is that Garson is still the Strong Man in Manitoba. He was billed as that, and he has sustained his billing. From this distance, the lesson to be deduced is that Liberalism is still strong enough to win when the Liberal himself is strong enough.

So if you look at the four by-elections from a stratospheric height, you discern a slight loss for the Liberals. You see that the Conservatives have made emphatic gains. You note that the C.C.F. just simply got nowhere. You envision short shrift for Republicans and all anti-English parties. You feel that Social Credit has run its course.

I see no evidence yet that Drew is getting anywhere, west of the Manitoba-Ontario border. But definitely, Drew is going ahead down this way, and while I may not be as high on him as some are, as a faithful reporter, I must record that I see no signs of anybody stopping him at this writing. I merely say, watch Drew, and I mean just that.

Canada Makes Progress in 1948

A. E. Arscott, President, The Canadian Bank of Commerce, Says Production Facilities Improved Beyond Most Optimistic Estimates

Stresses Importance of Agriculture

James Stewart, General Manager, Reviews Satisfactory Progress of Bank

At the Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of The Canadian Bank of Commerce, held in the Head Office of the Bank in the City of Toronto, December 14th, Mr. Allan E. Arscott, C.B.E., President, and Mr. James Stewart, C.B.E., General Manager, presented the Annual Statement of the Bank's operations in the past year, together with a review of business conditions. Mr. Arscott's address to the meeting follows, in part:

When we consider the size of Canada we can say that the country as a unit is in a relatively prosperous condition.

A year ago those engaged in agriculture faced difficulties, largely the result of poor crops over most of the farm and ranch areas. The crops this year, on the contrary, have been for the most part of high yield, exceptions being in limited areas in the West and the orchards of Nova Scotia and in parts of the Fraser Valley of British Columbia. The improved crop situation is best indicated by the fact that grain yields in 1948 are about two hundred million bushels greater than in the preceding year, the increase being divided between the Prairie Provinces and Eastern and Central Canada. This should mean that there will be larger food supplies in this country as more grain is converted into dairy, poultry and meat products and that our exportable surpluses can be greater.

In the coming months it may be necessary for us to reconsider our position in the world wheat markets. The world wheat agreements were not ratified within the designated time limits, so that Canada, if new agreements are not made, is left in the main to her own resources to search for markets where the purchasers have the ability to provide satisfactory payment. There have been hopeful signs in recent weeks that proposals again will be placed before the governments concerned. Out of the discussions there may emerge a programme for orderly international marketing and distribution of food supplies.

Industrial production continues to increase although the rate of increase in some industries has been more or less irregular during the past year. In part this is due to the fact that the flow of materials from the United States had to be curtailed to conform more closely to our reserves of American dollars, and in part because of shortages in some materials, both in Canada and elsewhere.

FORESTRY

In forestry, production of lumber, wood pulp and paper again established new records, although some of the Eastern lumbering districts have been less active than for some years past. Over all, Canada will have cut in 1948 about five thousand million feet board measure of lumber and made over seven million tons of pulp and paper. The output of newsprint this year is four times greater than that of any other country and accounts for over half the world's supply of this essential commodity. Impressive as these figures are they do not represent all the progress in forestry operations because of continuing technical changes designed to increase the supply of wood materials of all kinds, notably pulp, and also to improve the quality of forest products.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

A noticeable important change in direction of our export trade centred in the American market which took more Canadian goods and materials of all major classifications than in 1947. The value of such exports exceeded \$1,200 million, close to the war-time peak when the United States was importing military supplies in large quantities. When all Canadian exports are taken into account the total amount is above that of the preceding year, over \$2,700 million in value, but perhaps somewhat smaller in volume.

With respect to our trade with other countries, our exports to the British group declined by more than one hundred million dollars from 1947, as the result of smaller shipments to the United Kingdom, and substantial reductions in those to other markets in this group, particularly Australasia. There was also a marked falling-off in exports to Continental Europe.

European countries are now obtaining goods from Canada through allocations made under the European Recovery Programme whereby purchases are permitted to be made in Canada and payment arranged for in U.S. dollars. Also having a bearing on Canada's trade, it has already been indicated that the balance remaining of the United Kingdom credit from Canada, namely, \$235 million, is likely to be "unfrozen" over the following months. The above arrangements should continue to stimulate temporarily at least the overseas demand for Canadian products.

DEFENCE PROGRAMME

With regard to defence measures now being considered and those in hand, the query arises as to what the effects will mean in terms of our economic activity. At the moment our position is not clear

but it seems obvious that some resources will need to be withheld from domestic consumption. A military programme at the present is very different from other periods of defence preparation in this country. At other times, war for Canada, in the earlier stages at least, took up the slack in our economy and encouraged the expansion of production. Today with high employment, preparedness comes as a competitor not as a supplement to the productive machine and this fact will require consideration in making plans for next year.

It is evident that today we have conditions in our economy which vary greatly from those that we have had in the past. In effect we are endeavouring to travel along the paths of peace, reconstruction and defence preparation simultaneously, each of which would in itself have a direct bearing on industrial decisions.

Domestically our economy has never been so flourishing. This is not to say an ideal situation has been achieved but it can be stated that our facilities for production have improved to an extent beyond even the most optimistic estimates of the last two years.

There have been incidents in the international sphere which have given, and are still giving cause for considerable concern. Statesmen not only from this continent but from abroad who have been close to international problems have warned us repeatedly of disturbances that might affect various European countries and which in turn could involve all the countries of the civilized world. We can only hope that the deliberations and patient efforts of those charged with the task of working out a peaceful solution will be successful in convincing potentially belligerent nations of the wisdom of foregoing any actions which might lead to an actual war. The cloud, however, is hanging over us and is affecting our thoughts no matter how prosperous the country appears to be in a general way. It would seem, therefore, that the pattern of the year ahead is likely to be determined more by international than by purely domestic economic considerations.

GENERAL MANAGER'S ADDRESS

The assets of the Bank have now reached a figure in excess of \$1,500 million, an increase for the year of \$102 million. In referring to the progress made in this respect during the year, mention might be made that an apparent misunderstanding in some quarters exists that such an expansion in the Bank's business reflects a larger proprietary interest of the shareholders; in other words, that the

assets generally belong to the shareholders. This, of course, is incorrect, since the assets of the Bank, apart from the shareholders' equity, are the offsetting counterpart of the Bank's liabilities, which are represented largely by the deposits of its customers.

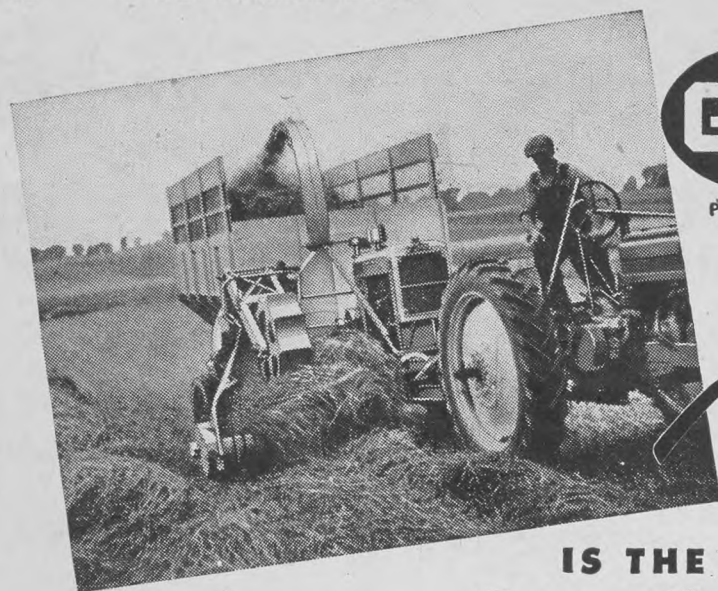
DEPOSITS

Aggregate deposits during the year increased by \$93 million, of which \$9 million was in non-interest bearing accounts, \$50 million in Savings, and \$34 million in Dominion Government Balances the latter reflecting to some extent the proceeds of the sale of Dominion of Canada Savings Bonds. The non-interest bearing accounts, made up mostly of business accounts, fluctuate within quite a wide range. The Savings Accounts for the most part are moneys belonging to individuals. This continued evidence of thrift on the part of the public must be viewed with satisfaction as the accounts are well spread among all classes and occupations. Our deposit customers now number in excess of one million five hundred thousand, which figure represents a gratifying increase over last year.

LOANS

Our Current Loans in Canada show an increase of \$30 million which is indicative of the active part this Bank is taking in the business of the country. While loans continue to show an upward trend, the rate of increase which was evident last year has slowed down. The figures this year signify a combination of two factors—first, the continuation of the increased tempo of business compared to war and pre-war days and, second, the higher level of prices. There has been evidence in recent months that the rate of increase in prices is slowing down and it is to be hoped that the levelling-off point is near at hand. The continuing upward trend of business has inherent in it some elements of uncertainty. Increased production is essential to the well-being of the country, particularly in those lines where supply has not yet caught up with demand. However, there seems to be a tendency by some to reach out for volume beyond the point where existing capital can reasonably support financial requirements. Expansion of this kind should be taken care of by obtaining additional capital and working capital positions should be analyzed with this in mind.

In these confused times one could not predict in anything but general terms what the future holds. However, with the resources with which this country is blessed, we can, if we handle our affairs with prudence now, look to the future with confidence.



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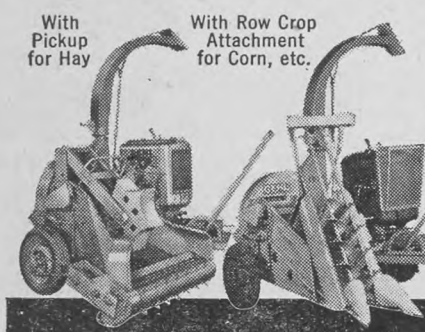
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Study In Oil

Continued from page 11

products output to a level incapable of meeting state requirements. For the strike's duration an embargo was placed on oil exports from California to countries other than Canada, although the Dominion was asked to refrain from purchasing.

In cases of distress permission is obtainable from Washington for the importation of necessary supplies to British Columbia. Should the strike end, as it is expected to do soon, fuel oil supplies will be again available to the coastal province. But even when this labor dispute is settled, the United States, as Canada's chief source of oil supply, must be increasingly replaced by more remote areas.

Canadians, however, are not destined to become subjugated to the oil economies of other nations forever. At the present time proven reserves of crude oil in the Dominion amount to about 280,000,000 barrels. Oil geologists are scouring the country from coast to coast at an unprecedented rate searching for additional sources. About 25 per cent of the total area of Alberta is currently under lease or reservation which has made this province the fourth most active oil exploration area in the western hemisphere.

Prospecting for oil is being conducted on a smaller scale in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario and the Maritimes. A strike was recently reported in the Gaspé Peninsula which set hitherto oil-less Quebec agog.

But the biggest pot of black gold at the foot of the rainbow is undoubtedly buried beneath the fertile soils of Leduc. And it is here that the greatest activity is centred today.

By the end of 1948 some \$30,000,000 had been spent on drilling, exploration and surface development in this area alone.

Approximately 130 wells are being sunk which will have an estimated production of 20,000 barrels of crude oil daily. Present production rate at Leduc is 6,000 barrels daily.

Expansion of the Leduc field is of supreme significance to the western farmer and his operations. Since the end of World War II the prairie provinces have been a difficult area to supply. In 1947 they used up 50,000 barrels of petroleum products a day. Of this 38,000 came from local refineries and 12,000 in the form of refined products were imported—chiefly from eastern Canada.

Of the crude requirements less than 50 per cent could be supplied from domestic sources such as Turner Valley. The balance was hauled from Texas, Colorado and other distant American points. This involved the imposition of severe loads on an already overloaded rail system and high freight rates which eventually came out of the farmer's pocket.

ON February 13, 1947, when Imperial's Leduc Number 1 "blew" with the force of a rampant volcano, it changed the entire oil scene in the West. Each barrel of Leduc production displaced one from the U.S. with an average dollar content of \$3.00. At the present rate of production, this represents a saving of \$18,000 in American currency per day.

As soon as the potentialities of the Leduc field were realized, Imperial bought out the American Army refin-

ery at Whitehorse, Yukon, for one million dollars and trucked it over 1,500 rugged miles of the Alaska Highway to Edmonton. The refinery is now in production and is expected to be turning out 11,000 barrels daily when going full blast.

Elimination of long-haul freight charges and the proximity of refining facilities to consumers is already being felt. Prices of petroleum products in the northern half of Alberta have been reduced.

While this might sound like a modest start, it is a trend likely to spread throughout the prairies. It is visualized that in three years time production in the Leduc area will be from 65,000 to 70,000 barrels a day. This volume, supplemented by Turner Valley crude, will exceed prairie requirements. *In other words the West will become self-sufficient in oil!*

To handle the anticipated volume, serious consideration is being given to the construction of a 500-mile pipe line from Nisku, Alberta, to Regina at an approximate cost of \$30,000,000. Such a venture would bring down transportation rates considerably and would result in a lower retail price of refined products. A further expenditure of some \$40,000,000 to expand existing refining facilities is also being looked into.

FROM the foregoing it appears that the oil picture in Canada and the world at large is reasonably bright. There is, however, a school of alarmists who are convinced that world resources will soon be exhausted. Since oil disappears after use and cannot be reclaimed like steel or rubber, there is some justification for their alarm. But oil economists assure us there are sufficient known resources on hand which, if properly allocated, will keep our motor humming for at least another 50 years.

Will our grandchildren then be faced with an oil hunger?

Fortunately, no. Scientists have taken care of that by devising methods of producing synthetic fuel oils from coal, natural gas, oil shales, tar sands and even corn cobs, which will provide food for our tractors, trucks and Diesel engines for several hundred more years; probably thousands.

The first synthetic plant was built in 1927 in Germany after a scientist, Bergius by name, succeeded in "spiking" coal with hydrogen and converting it into oil under high temperatures and pressure. The plant used soft brown coal or lignite, available in Germany in large quantities.

Synthetic fuel oils figured largely in Germany's preparedness during the last war. At the peak of her production in 1944 her plants were pouring out synthetic oil at the rate of one billion gallons a year—almost 50 per cent of her total output.

With her oil supplies drastically cut by the submarine blockade, England wasn't standing still in that period either. During her darkest moments when the German V-1's and jet bombs were blasting at her, she produced 150,000,000 gallons of synthetic aviation gasoline annually which was even of higher grade than the standard 100-octane fuel.

Much activity in synthetic oil production is evidenced in the United States. By streamlining the German method, Standard Oil Development Company has produced a synthetic

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gasoline much superior to Germany's wartime 50-octane fuel. In Canada the problem of fuel oil production from natural gas is under study by the National Research Council. The economics of production has already been delved into by commercial oil firms.

The successful synthesis of fuel oil and lubricants should sound heartening to western farmers. Near their backdoor they have vast quantities of soft coal and lignite. The country's proven and probable reserves of natural gas—largely in the West—are estimated at about three and one-half trillion cubic feet which can be converted into approximately 320,000,000 barrels of fuel oil (11,000 cubic feet of gas to one barrel of oil).

In the Athabaska region lie great areas of tar sands containing what is believed to be some 100 billion barrels of oil. Our oil shales possess another 96 billion barrels.

Then why don't we dig into these resources so we won't have to suffer future oil shortages?

The answer boils down to one simple word—costs.

IT is much more expensive to produce one gallon of gasoline synthetically than to distil a gallon from natural crude. Cost of building a plant to convert natural gas into oil would run roughly to 25 million dollars. It would have to be located near a field with an enormous gas reservoir so that it would operate long enough for the original investment to pay off. No such gas field is yet known in Canada. Where tar sands and oil shales are concerned, no method has yet been devised by which oil can be extracted from them cheaply enough.

England has already learned this lesson in economics. Its synthetic oil industry had to be subsidized by the government.

But commercial oil companies in Canada are by no means nearsighted. They are keeping a close watch on consumption of natural crude and are making a careful evaluation of the raw materials available for the manufacture of synthetic oil. If conditions warrant it, we may certainly expect them to do something—synthetically.

One such condition may be another war—or even a good war scare. Most farmers can still recall the gas rationing days of the last war; the purple gasoline and distillate. In event of a third war similar restrictions are bound to return, since fuel oil requirements of our armed forces are becoming infinitely greater with each successive war. World War II required 19 times as much oil as World War I. The next conflict will consume vastly more than the second one.

An idea of how much fuel a single fighting unit requires can be gleaned from the fact that a B-29 super fortress long range bomber burns up 292 imperial gallons of gasoline per hour. Multiply this by several thousand planes, tanks, trucks, jeeps, snowmobiles, motorcycles, battleships and destroyers, and the total hourly oil consumption in a modern war becomes fantastic.

But should war come, oil men are confident that Canadian farmers will again be placed on the preferred ration list. For it is they who produce the fuel which keeps the man inside the machine going. For, despite almost complete mechanization, armies still march on their stomachs.

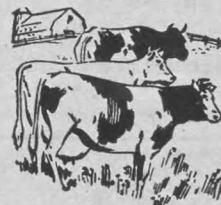
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LICE CONTROL Tests similar to those above have been made to determine the effectiveness of lice control on livestock. Results were remarkable. During the period when louse infestations were at their heaviest, treated cattle gained as much as 60 or 70 extra pounds per animal over and above untreated cattle. You can get results like that, too, if you use Green Cross Animal Insect Powder, one of the finest lice control preparations on the market. It's a non-irritating blend of rotenone, DDT and other ingredients deadly to lice, fleas and other parasites. It's easy to use—you simply dust Animal Insect Powder onto cattle, horses, poultry, hogs and other animals right from the shaker-top tin.

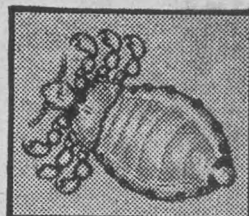
Get extra weight and production from your farm animals. Keep them lice-free with Green Cross Animal Insect Powder. You can get it at your nearest Green Cross dealer's.



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A Fox

Continued from page 9

concentrated on laying sets in and around that muskeg. I caught other reds, but the veteran Three-Legs eluded the cleverest sets, as if by an intuition nothing short of uncanny.

Finally I had three-quarters of my fox sets in that locality. I told myself firmly that if I left them alone, leaving frost and snow to perfect the job of concealment, Three-Legs, for all his cleverness, must stumble into one of them.

Perhaps Three-Legs realized that, also. At any rate, he left the muskeg religiously alone for the balance of the winter; and with the spring chinooks, I picked up all my sets.

With the blood fever of youth, all I could think of now was getting that fox. During the summer I planned on making several special baits to use when winter blanketed the hills and the valley once more.

Perhaps it was the taste of chicken bait which Three-Legs tasted when he overturned my sets. Perhaps it was fate. Anyhow, events took a different turn.

DURING the brooding season, Mother reported more and more hens missing from about the barnyard. Because of the long summer evenings, it was hard to get the chickens into the henhouse at night. Besides, there were many cluckers sitting on eggs in the scrubs about the yard.

I knew the killer was neither weasel nor skunk. The first simply kills a chicken and sucks its blood; the skunk is so greedy, he generally hates to leave the scene of his gluttony. Often enough, I have gone over to a wood-pile near a raided henhouse and located the skunk, waiting for night-fall when it could feast again. The coyote packs were hunting far up the valley that summer, so I deduced the marauder was a fox—probably Three-Legs.

Now foxes, while they live fairly precarious lives within the confines of civilization, are generally pretty wary of farmyards. Therefore, I suspected that Three-Legs had some very compelling motive for his raids. Youngsters?

If so, where? In a flash it came to me. Where else than in the spot where he had always eluded me, the muskeg in the west.

One pleasant June morning, with a spade, an axe, flashlight and lunch, I hit west across the pasture for the muskeg. There was a broad grass slough surrounding it, and as I strode through the shoulder-high hay, I knew I was on the right track. Deliberately across my trail ran the three-footed red, his flaming tail challenging me, his keen eyes on my every movement.

As I kept to my course, he darted in again repeatedly, trying desperately to lure me towards the southwest and the valley he knew so well. A red fox is no coward where his family is concerned. He will die for them, a chagrined look on his red face, as if mocking his hunter even in death. But he is not an attacker at any time—all he can use are his wits.

As I got clear of the tall grass and deeper into the boggy muskeg, a smaller fox joined the anxious Three-Legs, circling with her mate, trying to lure me out of those soft, sunlit spruce. It was almost as if they sensed that I knew enough about their habits to be able to find the den.

I did, too, for even at that age, I had dug out litters of coyote pups; and all these den-diggers follow the same general pattern. In the centre of the muskeg was a small "island," overgrown with young birch and willow. Years ago it had been surrounded with water, and beavers had left high dirt embankments facing the south. There, concealed by brush, was the opening to the den, with small bones and fur scattered about.

To make sure the whelps were still in the den, I knelt behind a stump and made a scraping noise on the bark. Soon the little foxes, three in number, were outside, listening avidly. Their curiosity is boundless.

Eagerly, and with great glee, I went about the task of digging them out, while the parents emitted short, whining barks and tried every futile trick to get me away. As I brought out the frightened young ones and put them in a gunny sack, Three-Legs watched from a tangle of sumach vines, the mute anguish of the wild on his features. When I left, he slunk over to the mound of earth, scraping hopefully with his forepaw as if he couldn't believe the whelps were gone. His mate followed me most of the way home.

I could only think of the winter months to come when I would nab the two old ones, also.

I raised the three young foxes and sold their pelts; but I never did catch Three-Legs. When the first November snow was settling over the waiting bushland, I looked eagerly for his tracks again.

But he had gone—probably to some other valley where he felt he could escape the relentless pursuit of men.

That was a good while ago, and it seems that through the years some bit of understanding has come to me concerning the great wilderness heritage that is ours. In those green years of my youth, no thrill could have equalled the digging up of that little fox family and the trapping of the old ones.

Now, each time I recall it, it is always with a little keener regret.

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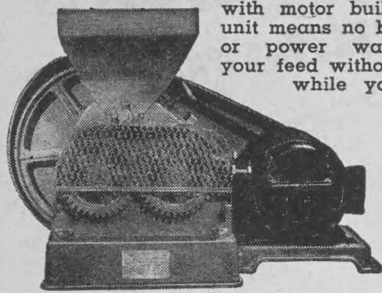
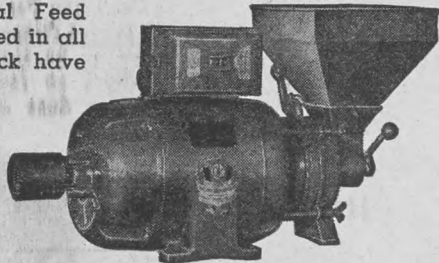
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Mountain Flight In Winter

Flying over the Rocky Mountains in winter is a memorable experience.

FOR most younger people of today airplanes are not a novel sight. The older folk among us, however, can remember the time when even the sight of an airplane was unknown and when one could only read with awe about the marvellous achievement of the now-famous Wright Brothers. Even now, after two great world wars, in which airplanes have played such an important and even decisive part, to millions of people the thought of flying through the air like a bird is still a novelty.

In March, 1948, I had occasion to fly directly from Vancouver to Winnipeg. Going out, the flight over the mountains was made at night, so that I looked forward to crossing them in daytime on the return journey.

We left Vancouver about two o'clock in the afternoon, and once having gained some elevation from the Vancouver airport, we appeared to take a wide swing across the broad delta of the Fraser river, thence up the famous Fraser Valley, so intensively devoted to poultry, fruit and dairy production. Rather unfortunately, my seat was on the south side of the plane on the eastward mountain journey, but I realized this only after we had attained sufficient height to be level with or above the tops of the highest peaks.

Southward, the hills seemed lower, duller, more rounded, while, looking past my neighbor on the other side of the plane, I could see a myriad sharp, jagged peaks etched by the sun falling upon their snowy sides.

WE passed quite rapidly over the length of the well-known valley farming district, perhaps 85 miles in all, and then began the long flight across to the foothills on the eastern side of the Rockies. After nearly a year some of the pictures are still vividly in my mind. I recall looking, from a height of perhaps 9,000 feet, directly down on the slope of what must have been a substantial hill, the side of which was studded with straight, bare tree trunks. As we flew so high above them, their innumerable stems seemed to cross and re-cross with our movement and the bright light of the sun, so that it looked as though we were standing still and the rows of trees were moving backward and forward like shuttles in rapidly moving machinery.

I can remember looking over to the northwest and, in the middle-distance, seeing a fairly long but massive rampart of stone, with innumerable short, sharp, jagged peaks—the whole thrown into dazzling brightness by the sun playing on its massive, snow-covered side. Above and around it was the darker, bluer sky. It seemed as though a gigantic artist with an immense canvas and a huge brush had painted a symbol of cold and awesome indestructibility.

My view southwards had some compensations, since far beyond the smaller appearing hills which lay below me and in the near distances, I had a view of higher, more rugged, and apparently more snow-covered

mountains lying across the international boundary in the State of Washington.

Mountains in the winter are an awe-inspiring sight. Bare of any green thing except the dark green and even brownish masses of evergreens seen against the snow from above, the hills lie dark and forbidding, as if one were viewing a panorama of relics of a bygone age in a museum of nature's grotesque achievements. Like great masses of heavy scar tissue on the face of the earth, these innumerable humps and points and ridges carried for immeasurable distances to the horizon, and one wondered about the significance, if any, of such perpetual immobility.

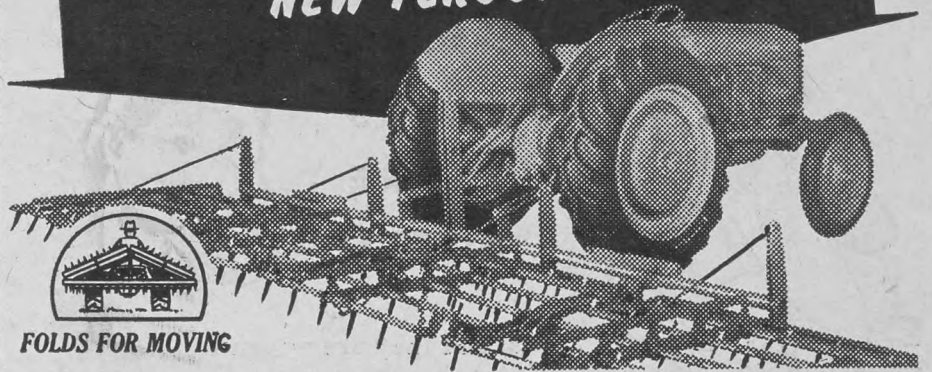
FORTUNATELY, it was not all of such bleak gauntness. Man, the ubiquitous, was there. From so high in the air it was just possible to make out signs of his presence here and there, and to discern his daring attempts to find a pathway in and around this wilderness of apparent lifelessness. Flight at about 175 miles per hour prevented recognition of many streams and perhaps many isolated habitations, but here and there, like small dots far below, could be made out little clusters of buildings, or perhaps a small town or village located at the end of a mountain lake. These, however, were no sooner recognized than left behind; and, in between, the feeling of surprise remained that in such seeming desolation a faintly recognizable trail could be found, or a faint ribbon of steel rails mark a railway line.

After a time, we emerged far south of Lethbridge, from the Crow's Nest Pass, and turned along the foothills to the landing field at Lethbridge. I do not know how long we travelled in this way, but I amused myself for a long time trying to see signs of life on the scattered and comparatively isolated ranches passing below. This was just a very few days after one of the unusually heavy snowstorms which southern Albertans hesitate to admit as a possibility in the otherwise salubrious climate of that pleasant land.

It seemed to me that we flew for at least several miles before I saw my first indication of any man-made tracks from an individual ranch house to a nearest neighbor or town. In many instances, no single evidence of any life appeared, perhaps because the families on these ranches had moved to town for the winter.

Looking eastward into the farther distance, towns and individual farmsteads were discernible as dark blots upon a white background. The land for miles and miles, to the very end of sight, seemed as level as could be. From north and south, faintly discernible black lines ran eastward to converge at infinity. These were the surveyed lines, the fence posts along which seemed to peek above the snow and thus make dotted lines on the white surface. It seemed to me then, and still does, that the insignificance of man, as an individual, is best seen over a wide expanse from the air in winter.—H.S.F.

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The U.F.A. Convention

The fortieth annual meeting recorded the separation of trading and educational activities and made final preparations for amalgamation with A.F.U.

THE 40th Annual Convention of the United Farmers of Alberta, held in Calgary, November 30 to December 2, 1948, had two major tasks to perform. One was the separation of the co-operative and educational activities of the association. The other was to consider the progress report on amalgamation of the U.F.A. and the Alberta Farmers' Union, at a joint convention arranged to be held in Calgary, January 11 to 14, 1949. The mid-November figure for membership for the year 1948 was given as 19,367 fully paid-up. It is expected that by the close of the year when permanent fully paid membership is transferred from dividends to the Co-operative that the total membership figure will stand at 34,534.

The Board of Directors' Report, which embodied the main resolutions on the separation of the two activities was endorsed in full. It pointed out: "United Farmers of Alberta as presently constituted is a corporate body carrying on two main functions; an educational function and a commercial one. The education function is carried on by one department and the commercial by another, which for the purposes of convenience and safety take the form of a wholly owned subsidiary, the U.F.A. Central Co-operative Association Limited. The Co-operative is to be established on an independent basis, which means two organizations will result where one now exists."

The choice was made, recommended and endorsed that the Co-operative continue under the Act of Incorporation of 1918 and as subsequently amended on various occasions, and that the educational body seek another form of organization outside the Act. A change of name to the United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Limited was made. Membership in the association is changed to a share capital basis with shares of par value of \$5.00 each, which will be issued to each member of the U.F.A. as at December 31, 1947, who held either a permanent membership or, during that calendar year, paid \$1.00 in membership fee to the U.F.A.

These original shares and others subsequently issued will carry voting and delegate rights. They are not commercial documents which can be bought and sold and transfer between members of a family will be subject to approval. For business purposes the province is divided into seven major zones and a director will be elected from each zone. Provision is made for nomination by postcard ballot. Until such time as the Act is further amended the requirements are for a board of nine directors. The convention elected two directors-at-large: A. B. Wood, Dewberry, and Rudolph Hennig, Fort Saskatchewan. The directors elected by delegates, meeting in groups according to zones were: M. H. Ward, Arrowwood; George E. Church, Balzac; J. Frey, Arneson; Mrs. N. D. Lehman, Camrose; George MacLachlan, Clyde; W. Sailer, Claremont.

By special resolutions presented, further by-laws were added, one of

which provided for additional capital for the expansion of the Co-operative by the issuance of preferred shares, yielding dividends but not carrying membership rights.

The head office of the Co-operative will be in Calgary. During such time as it is required the Co-operative will supply the educational body with office space and facilities. It will accept requisitions for membership dues to be paid out of patronage dividends accumulated by its customers from year to year. It will repay the educational body, as soon as possible, or in any event before December 31, 1952, a sum of \$25,000, being the estimated amount of the equities now held by the Co-operative, which money will discharge the Co-operative from all claims and demands of the new educational body. In addition an annual grant, mutually agreeable, will be negotiated with the educational body, starting in 1949.

ON Wednesday afternoon after the explanation of meaning and intent of the various clauses of the resolutions affecting the separation by J. E. Brownlee, K.C., solicitor for the association, there came a pause in proceedings which started again with the U.F.A. actually separate and apart, existing simply as an educational body. It will carry on as a non-incorporated association, on an annual membership basis, under the old name and with the same slate of officers. It is interesting to note that the United Farmers of Alberta—the organization which arose out of the uniting of Society of Equity and the Alberta Farmers' Association in January, 1909, carried on without incorporation until the Special Act of 1918. The present Board of Directors will continue in office until another annual convention is called or until it is terminated by amalgamation.

The Contact Committee composed of the executives of the U.F.A. and the A.F.U. had held three meetings and submitted a draft constitution of the proposed new amalgamated body. Copies of that draft had been forwarded to all locals and will be available to delegates attending the joint convention. It was agreed to recommend that the central office of the new body be located in Edmonton.

George E. Church, in his presidential address, traced the history of the U.F.A., pointing out that it had witnessed two world wars and two major depressions; had played a leading part in securing legislative enactments to relieve conditions affecting farmers; had participated in Dominion and provincial politics and later withdrawn from active political organization. "Interest in farm organization," he said, "ebbs and flows. There is always a solid core of well-informed members keeping our associations, whether educational or co-operative, alive and effective at all times. On the fringes are thousands of farm people who are more or less indifferent and are aroused to use our organization when some critical situation presents itself. Times change but the problem of keeping people interested remains . . . We look back over the long

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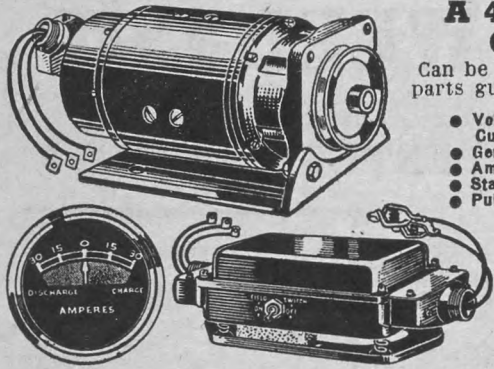
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There was the customary large number of resolutions on a wide variety of subjects. The convention waded manfully into them, leaving many undealt with at the closing evening session on Friday. The most heated debate at this year's meeting centred on resolutions seeking to discuss further the proposed amalgamation of the U.F.A. and the A.F.U. and to impose further conditions. Several of the directors spoke pointing out that having had meetings of the two executives, entering into negotiations and coming to a basis of agreement, new conditions would be embarrassing to all concerned. In the end the convention turned down the resolutions.

The U.F.A. through the years has given good evidence of knowledge and skill in parliamentary procedure. It has followed a practice of having two or three assistants to the convention chairman. They have been men who had the presence, voice and knowledge necessary to handle debate on contentious subjects. In January the representation to the joint meeting will be one delegate for every 20 members. It is likely to be a large meeting and will need the best of the combined skill of both groups of officers to conduct discussions and realize concrete objectives.—A. J. R.

What, No Turkey!

Continued from page 25

American turkey hatching eggs were selling for 40c apiece. The effect on Canada's production was obvious and freely predicted. The over-all volume of turkeys available this fall, East and West combined is 65 per cent of that of 1947.

As this is written the commonly quoted price for No. 1 birds at Manitoba points is 55c a pound live weight. These birds are coming out of the packers' coolers at around 65c and retailers are asking from 72c to 75c. Eastern cities are paying more. Because of the high price of top grade beef there isn't too much grumbling. American retail prices are higher still but Canadian birds are not crossing the tariff barrier on dressed poultry. American peddlers are picking up some live birds at Ontario points. This trade has the advantage of free entry into the southern market.

Many urban homes which buy one turkey a year, and that one at Christmas, were obliged this year to adopt austerity. With some it was a ham. With others, a chicken. And by the same token, the turkey famine has exercised a noticeable influence on the Christmas trade for smaller dressed poultry.

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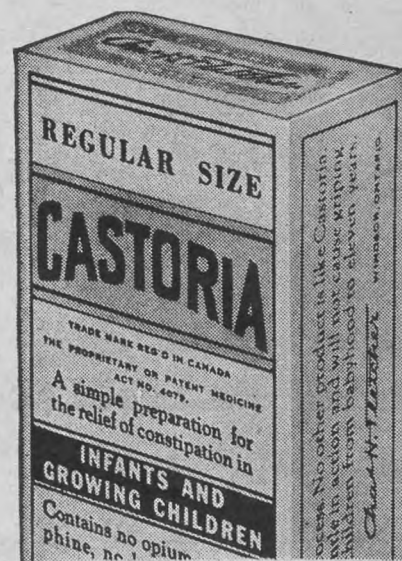
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Unusual Farmer

Continued from page 8

then arranged, putting three empties in the centre and two well filled combs of pollen, one on each side. The remainder of the space is filled with two partly filled honey combs on one side and three on the other. The queen is examined. Those hives that have a queen that shows signs of being an early layer are marked, and are the first to leave the cellar in the spring. The bees are returned to the cellar, with the bee feeder in the hive containing substitute pollen and water. The bees will not again form a cluster, and will be in good shape for going to work in the spring.

THE hives go into the field around the middle of April. Good summer care is important. Mr. Briercliffe goes through the hives every two weeks. A useful idea of his makes it possible to attend to the hives very quickly. On each hive platform there is placed a white, six-sided block, having different letters on each face. After a hive has been examined if the block is left with the letter V turned up it means that the hive contains a virgin queen that has not been mated; VL means that the queen is just starting to lay, L is a good laying queen, N is no queen in the hive, C means a queen cell has been built in the hive, and W means a weak hive. After one examination these blocks leave a record of the condition of all the hives, and they can be given quick attention. Using this system it is possible to attend to 60 hives in an afternoon.

Mr. Briercliffe attempts to grow plants on the farm that will supply the bees with nectar for as long a period as possible. The bees start in the spring on pussy-willows, Dutch clover and dandelions. This is followed by yellow clover, then golden honey plant and giant white clover. A little later Pellett clover, alsike, crimson clover and alfalfa provide nectar. In the early and late fall the nectar is provided by Hubam clover.

A number of these plants have been introduced by Mr. Briercliffe himself. With his incorrigible urge to experiment he is always on the lookout for new varieties that might prove profitable honey-producers on his farm. Next year he expects to be testing thirty-six varieties of clover and four varieties of alfalfa, and innumerable other plants. These plants come from points as widely scattered as England, the U.S. and Switzerland.

He considers the Hubam clover one of his best finds, because it extends the honey gathering season almost up to freeze-up. Unfortunately it is not possible to produce seed this far north, and he has to import his seed from the States every year.

Briercliffe is very well pleased with the success achieved with the golden honey plant, anise hyssop and globe thistle. All of these plants will grow on waste land and are good nectar producers. He has not yet done exhaustive experimental work on these plants but he is fairly well satisfied that they are hardy, and that they are able to compete with native growth in waste places. He also plans to scatter birdsfoot trefoil in his pasture. It is a flat growing plant, and has plenty of nectar producing possibilities.

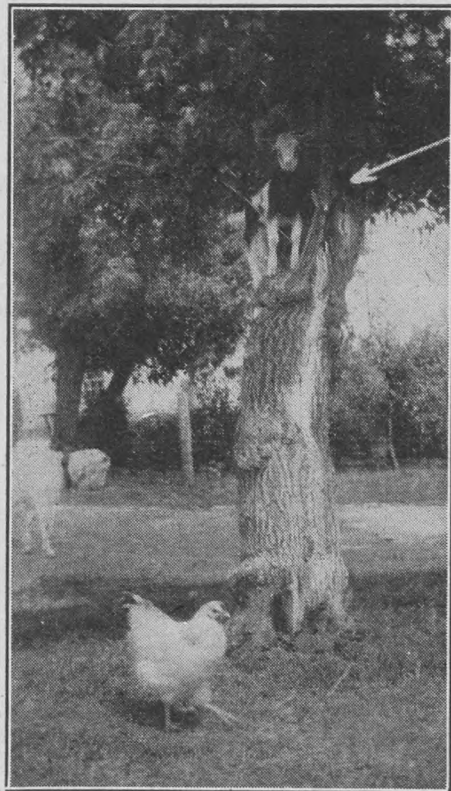
His over-all plan is to get as many nectar producing plants on the farm as possible and so attempt to have every acre on the farm producing something.

The bees have contributed a lot toward his success in growing profitable seed crops of alfalfa and clover, asserts Briercliffe. He was anxious last year to get a good set of alfalfa seed. In order to insure this he collected 500 pounds of honey from uncapped combs, mixed it with 125 pounds of water, added three per cent sizing glue, and put the whole mixture through a power sprayer onto 10 acres of alfalfa. He was satisfied that he gained a better seed set as a result of the spray, and, as he sold the alfalfa seed for 43 cents a pound compared to 10 cents for clover seed, he considered the whole venture quite profitable.

Briercliffe has a lot of other interesting features on his farm. He has four small offices on the place—one in the house, one in the workshop, one in the bee house and one in the oil shed. He has a pair of reading glasses in each. He likes to keep close records on all farm operations and this saves him time—and this, in spite of the fact that he is rarely caught walking. The typical pace on this farm is something between a fast walk and a run.

IT is hard to say just what is the most unusual feature on the Briercliffe farm. Half the items on the farm will be pointed out as inventions or ideas developed right on the farm. The many offices are an unusual angle. The tremendous amount of time spent in trying to find new crop varieties—a function farmers are usually well satisfied to relegate to the capable hands of professional experimental workers—is also something new.

Finally some mention should be made of the fact that the Briercliffes have dispensed with the service of the humble cow as a milk factory. They keep five nanny goats, and they are the source of all milk used on the farm. A final feature that is all too unusual is recognizable in Mr. Briercliffe's intense consciousness of the importance of conserving the soil from which, in the final analysis, the honey flows.



The arrow points to one of Mr. Briercliffe's milking goats which is taking a birds-eye view.

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ALFRED LORD TENNYSON

*Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light,
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.*

*Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.*

*Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.*

*Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.*

*Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, Ring out, my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.*

*Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.*

*Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.*

*Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*

Courtesy To Guest Speakers

POSSIBLY some day, someone will write a book on Courtesy to Guest Speakers. It looks as if we Canadians need such a book rather badly. We have dropped into a habit in this country of inviting a guest speaker to fill a gap in the program of a luncheon, afternoon or evening function. It may be that we even want to use a speaker as a drawing card either to induce people to come out to a meeting or we may want to justify charging an admittance fee or a dinner charge. A good speaker on a popular subject is a distinct aid.

We perhaps do not think about the time and trouble to which the speaker is put. For the time he must drop his own affairs and help us with our cause. We never think of offering a gratuity for his services. We just assume that the invitation to make the speech is sufficient honor.

It does not happen so in other countries. During the past few years a number of people from the British Isles have visited Canada. They are limited in funds which they may bring from their homeland. They are desirous of visiting as many places in Canada as they can. Some of them have put out tentative feelers to see if speaking engagements could be arranged. They have been specialists in one or more subjects and definitely have something worth saying. It would have been a simple matter to make speaking "dates" for them—but to assure them of any remuneration for their talks was quite another matter. Two, whom I had the pleasure of meeting, made a sizable income from giving talks at home. One of them had financed several trips to other countries in such a way. She had good hopes of helping reimburse her expenses in Canada by giving talks about this country, when she returned home.

A pause to consider if the manners of Canadians with regard to guest speakers are all they should be—an eastern effort to stimulate interest in public questions.

by AMY J. ROE

A Canadian woman, interested in public affairs, who had travelled abroad, particularly in England at a critical time, told me that she could have made arrangements easily for a well-paid speaking tour in the United States. Her work kept her at home but she gave many talks, free of course, in her home city. A Canadian man, who visited Iceland at the time of an important anniversary in that country's history, on his return found that he was greatly in demand as a speaker. He gave altogether 70 talks on the impressions of his visit to Iceland. It is a safe guess that possibly he gave the first 10 with pleasure and willingly. But after that the task would take on something of the nature of real work. Giving them deprived him of many hours which he might have spent in his office or comfortably at home with his family.

UNLESS a speaker is in the employ of some company or organization which is willing to pay him for his time and meet his expenses, he can not afford either to take the time or to go to the expense of extensive travel. I have known of one case, of a woman who was in constant demand as a speaker, making a charge for the service given. In that case there was some lifting of the eyebrows and the odd remark that she was being business-like and hard about giving her time to worthwhile causes.

In addition, we as Canadians need pointers on how to treat speakers after we have caught them in our engagement net. Often a speaker is billed as the main feature of a banquet or dinner—to say nothing of an afternoon meeting. Do we clear the decks and let that person put on his or her best possible performance? Perhaps he has spent a great amount of time and effort in its preparation. Too often he is preceded by several local dignitaries and officials and the hour gets later and later for

him to begin his speech. The audience is tired and perhaps somewhat bored before he has his chance to challenge their attention. He may justly suffer some resentment of such treatment and so not be able to strike the best line of treatment of his subject. A good speaker is sensitive to audience reaction so he may hurriedly cut out many portions of his talk in order to relieve them of the tedium of hours of listening to speeches.

If we have a good speaker we should clear away other matters for his performance. If for some reason the proceedings are running behind time then the chairman should have the courage to cut out less important items. A few experienced speakers have told me that when they are going to an afternoon meeting they carefully enquire as to the time they should appear. Even at that they are often kept waiting, while club business is being cleared. One young woman, with many important tasks waiting her attention, told me that on such an occasion some day she hoped to walk out of the meeting, saying that the time allotted for her speech had come and gone and so she must move on to another engagement. Perhaps such brisk treatment would bring us to our senses as to the value of other people's time.

Yes, we certainly need a book on the proper treatment of guest speakers! It would be a good shelf companion to one of the books on proper procedure of meetings, which every club secretary and president should own.

WHAT would be the likely reaction in your district if a delegation of women attended regular meetings of the school board and municipal council? For the past ten years, this very thing has been done in areas adjacent to the city of Toronto. The Women's Electoral Association originated the idea and consider that it has done much to stimulate interest in public questions and in the views of the men and women who stand for office. The delegation, consisting usually of three or four women, attends meetings, observes and writes a report. The report is then sent to all the members. The association while seeking to arouse interest in matters of public interest does not sponsor any candidate running for office.



View of an attractive corner of the grounds at the Dominion Experimental Station, Morden, Man.

She Lives With Wildflowers



Emily Sartain at home.

A sketch of Emily Sartain, painter of Canadian garden and wildflowers.

by GILEAN DOUGLAS

was later accepted with much pleasure by Queen Elizabeth as a memento of the Royal visit to Vancouver in 1939. During the next four years — having decided to stay in Canada when the war broke out — Emily brought nearly four thousand dollars into the coffers of those war charities for which she gave exhibitions of her work. A letter from the Queen Mother congratulating her on this splendid war effort caught up with the energetic artist when she was showing there for the Queen's Air Raid Fund.

The following year the I.O.D.E. and the Women's Canadian Club of Vancouver asked her to paint a picture of British Columbia dogwood to be presented to H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, during her visit to the

city. When I was talking with Princess Alice at a military reception in 1945 we spoke of western wildflowers and she told me how much she admired the beautiful dogwood painting.

I have seen several dogwood watercolors by Emily Sartain and they are all beautiful. There is the dogwood in its spring of white blossoms and again in its second blooming of autumn when the leaves have turned to vivid scarlet. Emily has a special genius for the painting of creamy flowers against a white background. I remember she told me once what colors went into that combination and I was amazed at the way such loveliness was produced. Her paintings have a three-dimensional quality that makes them really startling. When you come into a room where they are hung it is like seeing sprays and branches and sheaves of living blossoms captured within frames. Their delicate perfume seems to drift through the air and, especially when the painter herself is present—you can feel the bright blowing of that meadow wind.

Garden flowers shared honors with their wild kindred at Miss Sartain's first showings in Vancouver and Victoria: "the finest thing done in that line in any exhibition yet held in British Columbia," to quote the Vancouver News-Herald. Daffodils laughed at you from canvas, tulips and spring-bright "hellos," delphiniums and roses unbent from bordered dignity into sheer

beauty. These exhibits were followed by others in Calgary, Edmonton, Alberni, Nelson and Montreal. The press extolled each one and those who saw the paintings spoke of little else for days afterwards.

"They are so real I feel I should be digging around them with my trowel!" exclaimed a woman standing near me at one of the showings.

I knew just how she felt. I also knew some of the hard work which had gone into all that accuracy of detail and design. First, just the right spray or cluster must be found and tended carefully so that it will keep fresh until the painting is finished. Then comes the decision on arrangement; Emily is famous for the natural and graceful poising of her petalled subjects in their true colors. She paints quickly and her good artist's eyes spy out each vein of the leaf, each shade of petal-texture from waxy magnolia to papery daffodil. The result is a combination of fidelity and ethereal beauty that makes you catch your breath in wonder and delight. Viewed under a powerful magnifying glass it is impossible to detect the least inaccuracy.

But it is the untamed denizens of fields and woods that have really held Emily's gay heart from childhood until now.

"My greatest joy is to be in the country searching for wildflowers and painting them," she said to me with that elfin perk of her head which makes you think of fairy rings and midsummer revels. "The smaller and more delicate the flower the more it appeals to me."

SHE had hardly entered Canada before she began to paint her new wildflower acquaintances here and she has been concentrating on them more and more. She has given several radio talks on wildflowers and for the last two years—since going to live in Victoria, B.C.—has been devoting most of her time to their study and to work-

ing on the Canadian Wildflower Series found on those charming cards and hasty-notes displayed in stores everywhere. Last year more than 80 Sartain wildflower paintings were exhibited for three months in the Provincial Museum in Victoria and viewed by hundreds of delighted visitors. It has been advocated most warmly that the Provincial Government, the City of Vancouver or the University of British Columbia purchase this entire wildflower exhibit. It is to be urgently hoped that one of the three takes action on this golden opportunity.

"I hope, as time goes on," Emily told me, "to add to my wildflowers of the prairies and eastern Canada, so that my collection will be representative of wildflowers from coast to coast. Although I have not exhibited in Winnipeg—yet!—quite a number of people there have Sartain originals. Do you remember my painting of the green china Bambi vase with the yellow English primrose in it which I called 'Me and My Shadow?' That went to a Winnipeg home recently. Then the specimen for my painting of the Prairie Crocus—how prairie dwellers love that flower!—was sent to me by a Winnipeg patron together with an anonymous poem which goes like this:

*Said the crocus: 'My, this wind is cold,
I wish I hadn't been so bold.*

*Here the grass is dry and brown—
I'm glad I bought my eiderdown!"*

Her voice is light and high and sounds just right when she says: "But of course there are fairies!" As proof of that statement you can see a Sartain painting in a Vancouver home which shows sprites and elves frolicking among blue and yellow violets, calypsos and mission bells.

Some of that ariel magic is in the artist also and when you look at her you are sure that the fairies have indeed taken her in and made her one of them. Surely the wildflowers feel that she belongs to them also and that is why they share their dearest secrets with her. Yes, the fairies were certainly present at the christening of this gracious woman and clever artist. They came with the gifts of genius and charm.



Reproduction of tiger lily and satin flower; white trillium and mayflower sketches.

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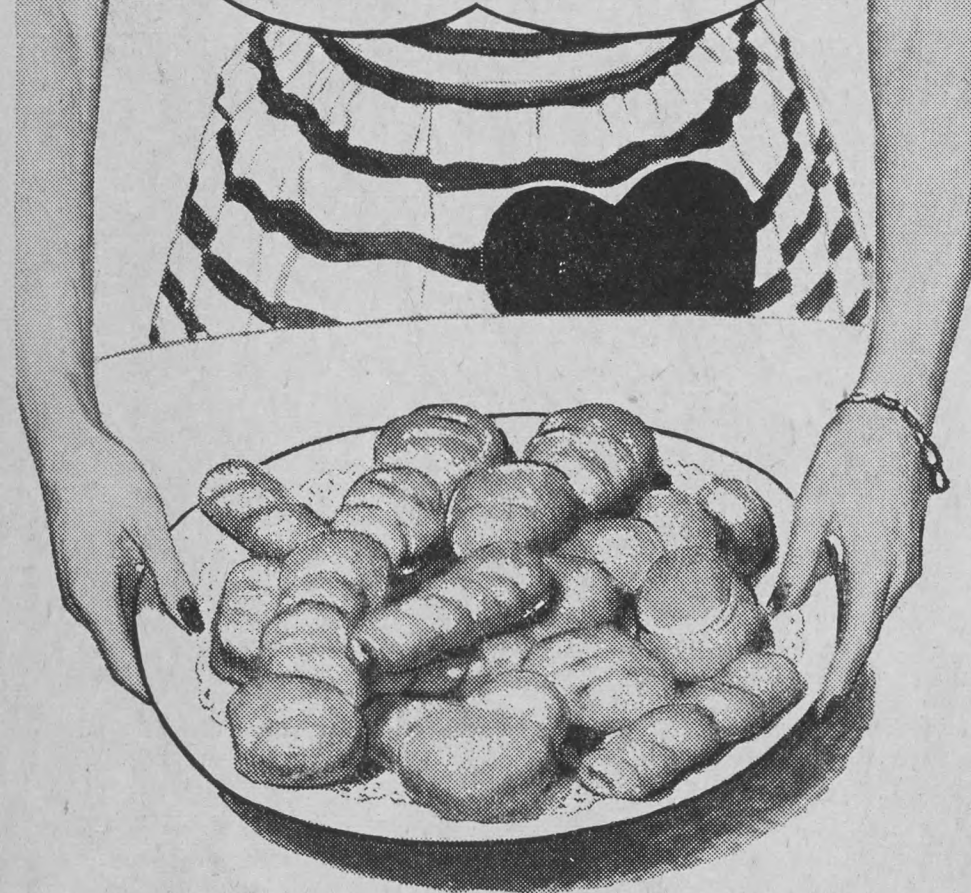


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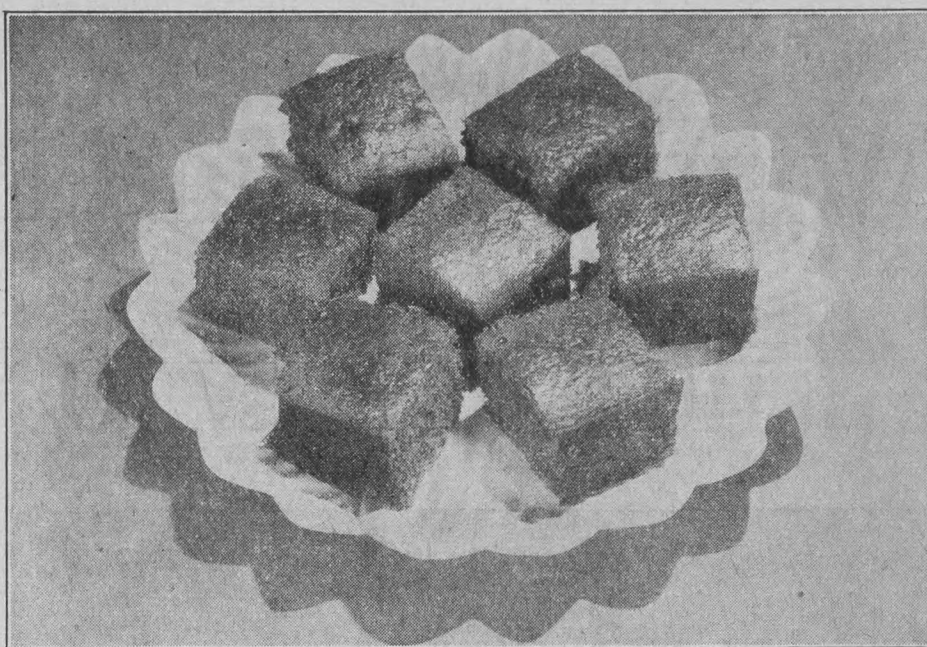


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1 package = 1 yeast cake in any recipe



Squares of sugarless gingerbread make a satisfying dessert.

Gingerbread for Flavor

Its spicy tang, rich color and wholesomeness make it a popular winter treat.

by EFFIE BUTLER

GINGERBREAD knows no season. Its golden brown goodness, warm and fragrant with spice and rich with molasses, makes it an ideal winter food. Children returning from a day at school, and men folk from work in the frosty outdoors, will welcome its high flavor and satisfying wholesomeness.

The full flavor of gingerbread makes it a happy companion with fruits and sauces. Serve it fresh as "cottage pudding" with custard or maple or mild lemon sauce. For a hearty dessert after a light first course try gingerbread with apple sauce and it may become one of your family specials.

Golden Gingerbread

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 cup brown sugar | 1 cup sour milk |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter | 3 cups flour |
| 2 eggs (not beaten) | 2 teaspoons soda |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ cup molasses | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons ginger |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ cup hot water | $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt |

Cream butter and sugar. Add unbeaten eggs. Stir in lightly. Add hot water to molasses, then add to mixture. Do not beat very much. Sift flour, ginger, and salt several times. Dissolve soda in sour milk. Add to mixture. Lastly sift in flour and spices and beat up quickly. Turn into greased baking tin (9x12 inches). Bake 45 minutes in moderate oven (350 degrees Fahr.)

Sour Cream Gingerbread

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| $\frac{1}{4}$ cup brown sugar | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour |
| 1 cup molasses | 1 teaspoon soda |
| 1 cup sour cream | 1 tablespoon ginger |
| 1 egg | $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt |

Beat up egg. Blend in sugar. Mix molasses and sour cream. Add to egg mixture. Sift flour, soda, ginger, and salt several times. Add to first mixture and beat up thoroughly. Pour into buttered pan and bake 30 minutes in a moderate oven (350 degrees Fahr.).

Maple Gingerbread (Sugarless)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 cup maple syrup | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour |
| 1 cup heavy sour cream | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoons soda |
| 1 egg | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons ginger |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ cup melted butter | $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt |

Combine the maple syrup, sour cream and egg. Mix and sift the dry ingredients and stir into the syrup mixture. Add the melted butter and beat up thoroughly. Turn the batter into a buttered tin and

bake in a moderate oven (350 deg. Fahr.) for 35 minutes.

The crumb of this gingerbread is soft and more like bread than cake. It is not oversweet and could be served spread with a maple flavored icing.

Gingerbread Upside-Down Cake

The substitution of ginger cake for white cake is attractively different in the popular upside-down cake. All fruits are especially susceptible to the spicy fragrance of a rich "gingerbread." Let fruit be a miscellany according to your own supplies.

(In Bottom of Pan)

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 cup cooked prunes or figs, or | A sprinkle of nut meats |
| 1 cup sweetened cooked pears, peaches, apricots, or apple rings | $\frac{1}{2}$ cup fruit juice |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ cup washed raisins | $\frac{1}{2}$ cup brown sugar |
| | 3 tablespoons butter |
| | 1 teaspoon ginger |

Combine fruit juice, sugar, butter, and spice in a baking pan (about 8x12x2 $\frac{1}{2}$) and stir to blend. Arrange fruit in pattern with nuts over liquid. Grease sides of pan.

(Batter)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour |
| 1 cup brown sugar | 2 teaspoons ginger |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ cup molasses | 1 teaspoon cinnamon |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ cup boiling water | 1 teaspoon soda |
| 2 eggs | $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt |

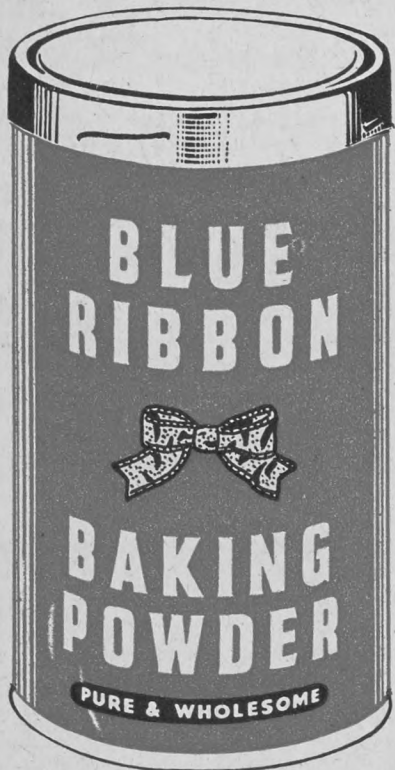
Cream butter and sugar. Add molasses and spices and beat. Add beaten eggs and stir. Add flour sifted with salt and beat. Add water in which soda has been dissolved and beat well. Pour batter evenly and gently over fruit so fruit pattern will not be disturbed. Bake in rather slow oven (300 to 325 degrees Fahr. about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours). Gently loosen sides and invert onto platter. Serve warm with or without whipped cream. Serves 10.

Steamed Gingerbread Pudding

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 tablespoons brown sugar | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour |
| 2 tablespoons butter | 1 teaspoon soda |
| 1 egg | $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raisins |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ cup molasses | $\frac{1}{2}$ cup boiling water |

Wash, drain, and clean the raisins. Add soda and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt to flour and sift. Cream butter and sugar. Add beaten egg. Stir in molasses. Add flour and beat well. Add floured raisins. Lastly add the boiling water. Pour into a well greased bowl. Cover with a piece of cooking parchment or wax paper. Steam 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Serve with favorite sauce.

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Ways With Rice

To serve for plain or party fare.

THOUGH commonly used in making puddings, rice may be served plain as a vegetable, in place of potato, or as a border for a reheated meat dish. Steamed, or boiled, it is a good filler for meat and fish casserole dishes. No matter in what form it is used the same basic principles in cooking should be employed.

Wash rice before cooking. To do so place rice in a fine strainer and permit cold water to run freely over the rice or immerse the strainer in several changes of water. This insures a purer, white kernel when cooked. Pick out any dark grains.

To prepare plain boiled rice, wash half a cup of rice. Sprinkle into four cups rapidly boiling water to which has been added one teaspoon salt. Let boil uncovered, adding more boiling water if necessary . . . the quantity of liquid absorbed by rice varies. If a scum rises to the surface during boiling, this should be removed. Keep the water boiling rapidly in order to burst the starch granules. Cook 20 to 25 minutes or until the kernels are soft but not mushy. Drain off the water. Immediately blanch by pouring cold water over the rice to separate the grains. When this method is used each kernel is distinct and very white and fluffy in appearance. Use a fork to stir as this is less likely to break the kernels.

The water which is drained off contains a great deal of starch and should not be wasted. It has good food value and may be used in making soups and sauces.

Fluffy boiled rice served with milk or cream and a spoon of jelly or jam or sugar to taste makes an attractive dessert.

Steaming is an easy way to prepare rice for casserole dishes. Wash half a cup of rice. Add to three cups boiling water and half a teaspoon salt in top of double boiler. Place over boiling water. Let cook 35 or 40 minutes until tender. More liquid may be necessary. A point to remember: Half a cup of raw rice will yield two cups of cooked rice, blanched and well drained.

Glorified Rice

½ c. rice	½ pt. cream
4 c. boiling water	(whipped)
1 t. salt	Vanilla
	Maple syrup

Prepare rice as for plain, boiled rice. Drain well after blanching with cold water. Fold in the whipped cream, sweetened to taste, and vanilla. Reserve a spoonful to top each serving. Garnish with crushed nuts or a cherry. Serve with maple syrup or chocolate sauce. Serves 5 or 6.

Rice Surprise

2 c. cold boiled rice	1 c. cream
	(whipped)
1 c. orange pulp and juice	Sugar to taste
	Cherries or
¼ c. finely shredded preserved ginger	orange segments

Gently fold the orange pulp and juice and ginger into the rice. Fold in the whipped cream sweetened to taste. Top each serving with a swirl of whipped cream and decorate with a cherry or orange segment and you have a dessert a chef would call by a very fancy name.—M. E. B.

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Rita Martin

Director, Home Service Department,
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2 tablespoons sugar
 2 tablespoons shortening
 melted and cooled
 1½ teaspoons salt

1 cake fresh compressed yeast or
 1 package fast-rising dry yeast
 1 cup lukewarm water
 3¼ cups (about) sifted
 Robin Hood Flour

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Here's all you do:

Add sugar, shortening, salt and crumbled yeast to lukewarm water.

Add 1 cup Robin Hood Flour and beat with a rotary beater until smooth.

Mix in remainder of Robin Hood Flour.

Place dough on lightly floured board, let rest about 5 minutes.

Knead well until smooth, then place

in a greased bowl, cover, and let rise until light (about 1 hour).

Punch and form into rolls of desired shape.

Place on well-greased baking sheet or in muffin pans, cover with a damp cloth and let rise until light, about ½ hour.

Bake in hot oven, 425°F., 12 to 15 minutes.

Yield: 18 medium-size rolls.

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The Right Shampoo

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by LORETTA MILLER



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SHAMPOO preparations, like makeup, are getting more specialized every day. Now there are special cleansers and rinses for keeping every shade of hair at its loveliest. One preparation lightens as it cleanses, while another brings out the deep beauty of black hair. Another rinse removes yellow streaks from grey or white hair or, when used on bleached hair, tones down the harsh, brassy look that makes bleached hair so artificial looking.

There are literally hundreds of splendid shampoos and rinses on the market, but because girls like to experiment and cut corners, it is sometimes interesting to make such simple beauty preparations as a shampoo. One very fine cleanser for hair and scalp can be made from scraps of soap which should be kept in a tightly covered jar which is kept half filled with water. As the soap dissolves it forms a jelly and if the soap happens to be nicely scented, so much the lovelier. If, however, unscented soap has been placed in the jar, a few drops of oil of lavender may be added to give perfume to the shampoo jelly. Or, starting with a jar of such jelly, one may make any number of variations.

One fine way to utilize scraps of soap is to make the soap jelly described above and to it add the strained juice of two lemons. Stir this well and use as you would any shampoo. If the shampoo is used every week or two, or if there are more than one in the family using it, there is little chance that the shampoo will spoil. However, if only one person uses it, it might be well to divide the soap-jelly, using perhaps one cupful, more or less, for each shampoo. The strained juice of two lemons may be added to the amount necessary for one shampoo. Of course all soap must be rinsed from the hair after the necessary lathering and scrubbing.

If the shampoo is used without the addition of lemon juice, it is necessary to rinse all soap from the hair as usual. Then, if a lemon rinse is to be applied, it should be prepared this way: To one quart of hot water add the strained juice of two lemons and, if preferred, one level tablespoonful of salts of tartar. Pour this rinse over the hair after all soap has been removed, rinse thoroughly with clear water and re-

move excess moisture with a dry towel.

Hair bluing must never be confused with ordinary washday bluing. Hair bluing is available at most drug and department stores and full directions accompany each package. Such a rinse may be used on over-bleached hair for the purpose of toning down the too red or gold tones. A word of caution: When used on hair which has been abused by over-bleaching it is necessary that the rinse be applied to the hair close to the scalp and that only a very light application is made to the ends. Because the ends of the hair may be over-bleached and are more porous, they will more readily absorb the bluing. Guard against this and if you find the ends of the hair, or certain strands which have been over-bleached, turning blue, be quick to remove excess. This is done by moistening a small pad of cotton with alcohol or cologne and rubbing it over the too blue hairs. A little soap and water may be used if preferred.

BLOND hair requires frequent washings and brushings if it is to look lovely. If you have this beautiful shade of hair, you can keep it looking its best by frequent shampooing and brushing. The lemon rinse described today may be used every two or three weeks and will help prevent the hair from darkening.

Every dark haired beauty prides herself with either the blue blackness or the reddish lights of her dark tresses. The true shades of black hair require special care if either of these two tones are to add lights and shadows that give either a blue or a red lustre.

The rich blueness of black hair is best brought out by the use of a bluing rinse after the shampoo. Directions for giving this final rinse will be found on every package of bluing and each step of the application must be followed. (A clear water rinse used after the application of bluing may be suggested and if so, it certainly should be followed. This final rinse removes any excess bluing that may seem to coat the hair.)

AS an alternative when shampooing a blue-black hair, a few drops of the bluing, or one-eighth of a teaspoonful if it is in powder form, may be added to the shampoo jelly described above, or to any favorite shampoo. When added to the cleansing agent, the shampoo is given as usual and a clear water rinse used.

To bring out the reddish lights of dark hair one may use a teaspoonful of henna powder in the shampoo. Henna powder may be obtained in your local drug stores. When used as sparingly as suggested today, and left on the hair just long enough to scrub the scalp, the results will be a highlighting effect. It will not make a drastic change in the shade of the hair. More henna powder may be added to the shampoo jelly if more reddish lights are desired. However, do not make the mistake of allowing shampoo jelly to remain on for more than a few minutes unless you want to



completely change the color of your hair.

Brown hair may be called anything from blond to chestnut, but unless it is definitely light in color it may more correctly be classed as brown. Brown hair requires special care, but the slight effort is more than worth while. A little lemon juice or henna powder added to the shampoo will bring out the beautiful lustre of brown hair.

Brown hair requires almost daily brushing and frequent washings if it is to be lovely. When worn soft and fluffy, the shimmering lights of brown hair seem to add sparkle to the entire head. Too, most girls with brown hair are fortunate enough to be able to wear almost any shade of clothing. Makeup, however, should be more carefully chosen, with an eye either to the complexion tone or the color of the eyes.

Grey hair can lend softness to any face providing the hair is kept lovely. The pure, silvery tones of grey or white hair are best revealed when all trace of yellow discoloration is removed. Shampoos and soaps that are too strong, too much heat when curling the hair, or, as in some cases, an acid condition of the system, are contributing causes of yellow streaks in delicate grey or white hair. A noted

authority once likened the care of white hair to that of fine silk. Strong soaps, too much heat, or just neglect may cause a piece of fine silk to become yellow, just as these same causes mar the beauty of the hair. So, in removing yellow from silk one uses a bluing, the same method applies to the hair. However, hair bluing is of finer quality and is not permitted to remain on the hair. A clear-water rinse removes the final traces of bluing, leaving the hair bright and glistening.

Thorough cleanliness and frequent brushing are requisite to the beauty of grey or white hair. The shampoo must be mild, and the brush must be cleansed every second or third time it is used. There is no doubt that grey hair is ever so much more flattering to the older woman than are the harsh shades of dyed hair.

Women with grey hair require almost the same makeup as that used by blondes. Care should be taken that cheek rouge cover only the right area with a delicate blush. Both lip and cheek rouge should be on the pale side, never a harsh red or orange. Hair plays an important part in framing the face. See that your good looks are set off with sparkling tresses arranged in the most flattering coiffure.

Tricks With Scotch Tape

Many uses around the home for a modern and inexpensive product.

by GRETA G. CARROLL

SCOTCH tape is a cellulose product. It does not need to be moistened. Its special adhesive sticks it at a touch to all sorts of surfaces—wood, glass, paper, rubber, even cellophane. Moreover, you can remove it from hard surfaces leaving no trace. And it has also the advantages of being transparent yet strong; tight-sticking; long-lasting; protective and waterproof.

These are features that endear it to the housewife. Once regarded somewhat dubiously as a mild extravagance, it has edged into esteem and new uses are still being discovered for it. Here are some things that can be done with a roll of it kept handy.

Candles that do not fit their holders will stand straight and safe in their sockets if the butt ends are wrapped with a thickness of two.

Broken toys, paper dolls, torn picture books can be easily and efficiently mended. Sheet music, maps and dust wrappers on novels sometimes need this timely treatment too. Weakened bindings and dog-eared corners on commonly used books can be strengthened by a piece of it.

Pasted over the address on a letter it will keep either rain or snow from blurring the ink. Envelopes will never come unstuck in the mail if an inch of it is used across the point of the flap after sealing. It is fine for packages, too, whether they are to be mailed, stored away after moth-proofing, or presented as gifts. It makes fancy shelf paper for pantry shelves easy to put on and take off.

Salt and pepper shakers which have lost their small cork can still be used if a piece of Scotch tape is pasted across the hole in the bottom after filling.

Plastic raincoats, umbrellas and curtains, whether in the bathroom or the kitchen, can have a tear mended neatly by applying a length of this sticky tape to the under side. Mending a torn window blind is another use for it.

Rough surfaces on chairs or folding tables that tear one's sheer stockings cannot, perhaps, be planed smooth enough to prevent this as the wood splinters. But a piece from your handy roll of tape can end the trouble forever.

LABELS on medicine bottles are always clean and easily read if covered with it. A bandage can also be fastened on a finger without unsightly tying by means of it and, if the entire bandage is encircled, it will stay clean and dry much longer. Try it for a broken finger nail too. Cover the nail with the tape, clip it to the right shape and give it a coat of nail polish. Do a neat job and no one can tell your nail was broken.

When a new recipe is clipped for trying paste it at once on a filing card or in a recipe book with a smidgeon of tape at the corner or across top and bottom. Sticking coins to a piece of cardboard for mailing, leaving notes for callers or a delivery man on the kitchen door when you go out are other places where quickness and convenience count. And the tape can easily be pulled off the door without marring it as a tack would do.

One can even mend one's broken eyeglasses temporarily if the break comes near the rim. And corsages are most neatly and efficiently made with it from home-grown flowers and can be pinned on your very nicest dress without leaving stains.

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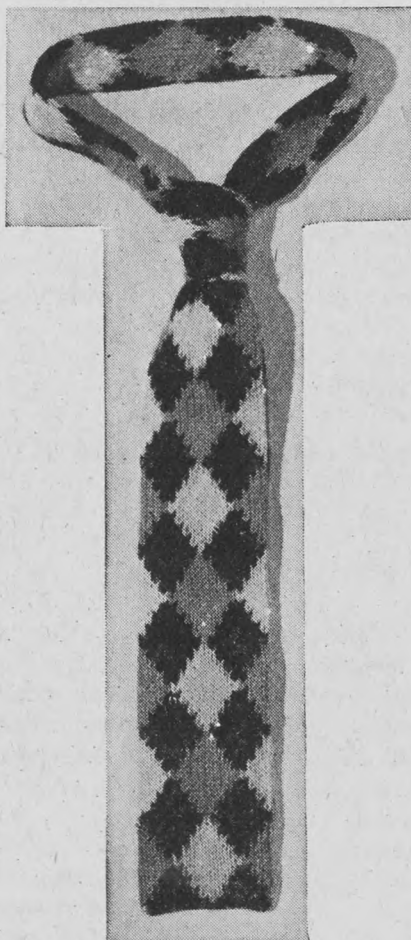
The Diamond Story

Mid-winter needlework for skilful hands.

by ANNA DE BELLE

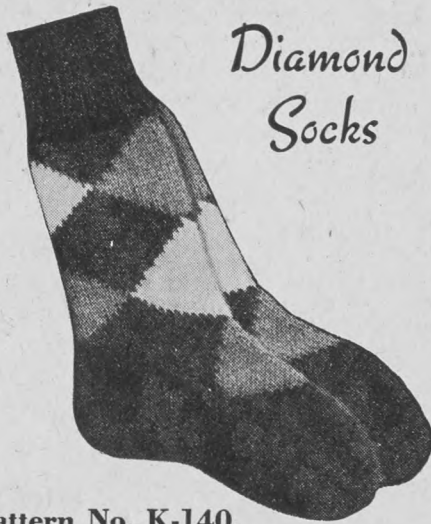
EVERYONE is doing diamond knitting these days. And little wonder! What could be more effective? What could be more fascinating to make? We have selected four small, easy-to-do pieces, designed specially for 'teen-agers and children but we know some adults will want the colorful mittens and socks to wear with slack suits and sports outfits. An interesting feature is that the patterns for the socks and mittens include both one-at-a-time diamonds and the carry-the-wool-all-around method.

Diamond Tie



Pattern No. K-154.

This is one of the most popular ideas we've found in a long time. And we'll tell you a secret... while the tie was designed for young men we find that oldsters like it to wear with those new plaid and bright sports shirts! Pattern No. K-154. Pattern 20 cents.

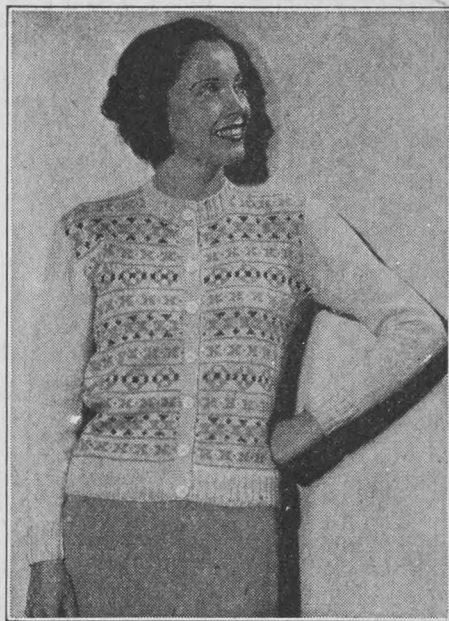


Diamond Socks

Pattern No. K-140.

The Pattern includes both children's and adults' sizes. Also, it gives directions for knitting (completing) one diamond at a time and for carrying the wool in all colors as the work progresses. Pattern No. K-140, Children's sizes 5, 5½, 6, 6½ and 7½. The adult pattern is No. K-126 and includes sizes 9½, 10 and 10½. Pattern 20 cents.

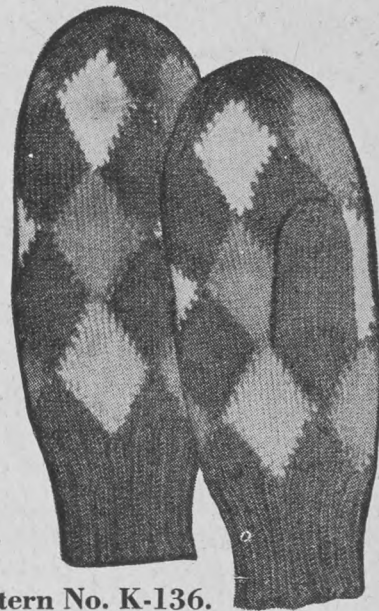
Jacquard Sweater



Pattern No. K-125.

Everyone is knitting with color these days and we know you will like this versatile cardigan. It is equally attractive on both youngsters and adults and we think Fair Isle knitting is fascinating and fun to do. The pattern is No. K-125, price 20 cents, and includes sizes 14, 16 and 18. One background color and 3 contrasting shades are used.

Diamond Mittens



Pattern No. K-136.

A gay, interesting design that warms the heart as well as the hands. Pattern No. K-136, sizes 6 to 8. Pattern 20 cents. Any three patterns, 50 cents.

Address orders to The Country Guide Needlework Service, Winnipeg, Man.

Needlework Bulletin

THE COUNTRY GUIDE "GOOD IDEAS" NEEDLEWORK BULLETIN for January is off the press. It contains complete instructions for making one needlework design, information about stitches, needlework ideas and patterns available through the COUNTRY GUIDE. One copy of the Bulletin, free of charge, is included with each order for stamped needlework or needlework patterns. Single copies of the Bulletin are only 5 cents, with 1 cent added for postage (or 6 cents). For 50 cents you may have one Bulletin each month for one year.



Many women are subject to weak, aching back. Often the kidneys are to blame, for your kidneys, along with the liver, must filter out impurities from the bloodstream.

So if you feel tired, worn-out, head-achy—with the nagging pain of an aching back—look to both your kidneys and liver. That's why Canadians have been relying on Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills for over half a century.

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T ANY DRUGGIST; OR FROM YOUR MAIL ORDER HOUSE

Those Cold Feet

LOTS of people would not dread winter so much if they could only keep their feet warm. I asked a man who has spent a life-time on the farm why so many rural houses have such cold floors. Faulty construction, he said is one reason, also unseasoned wood that shrinks and lets in the cold blasts.

He advised getting the best carpenter available and using nothing but well-seasoned lumber. Proper insulation is another essential. He said that installing a furnace in his own home had made a world of difference to the comfort. Be sure to consult an expert about such things. Write to the nearest Extension Service for information.

If cold feet, right now, is your trouble, try using a footstool when you sit down to read or relax. Any small wooden box will do if it is well padded. Raising your feet, even six inches off the floor makes a big difference.

Check each outside door and tack weatherstrip around the edges. Lay a mat or an old driving robe across the bottom of the door or make an old-fashioned sand-bag.

Cut a strip of closely-woven cloth such as canvas or heavy ticking, about eight inches wide and as long as the door frame is wide. Stitch the two long sides together and across one end, leaving the other end open. Fill with sand, close up the open end and lay it against that draughty door. These bags can be made any size you wish.

If you have much driving to do, get yourself a foot-warmer. Or do like some good friends of ours—pick a good flat stone and heat it in the oven. Check your driving robes and see that there are no cracks in the leather to let in the cold breezes. Lay a sheepskin in the bottom of the cutter, fleece upwards.

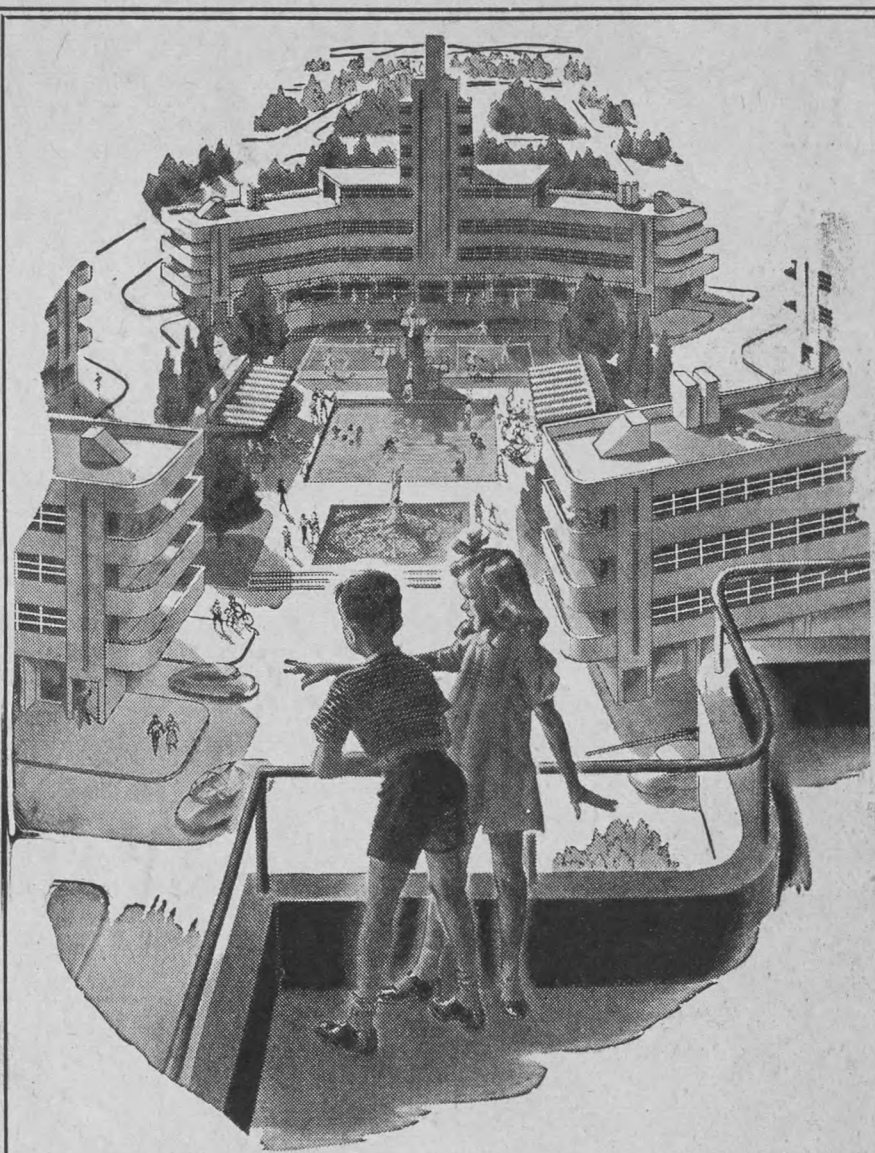
You have probably been told by your good man each winter that comfort is just a matter of wearing the right clothes. And I have to admit that I used to dread driving before slacks for women came into vogue. Whether or not they are becoming doesn't matter under a winter coat, and they do a lot toward keeping one's ankles and feet warm.

The kind of foot-gear counts too. My problem was solved by wearing moccasins larger than my usual size. Inside I have a pair of men's heavy socks. Of course I don't wear these in the house as they would be too hot.

You may prefer sheepskin boots or wannigans. They really are wonderful if you are going to a meeting in a building where the floors are sure to be cold. I have even seen them at dances and thought how cozy they must be. The wearers were enthusiastic about them.

If you have trouble in getting to sleep at night because of chilly feet, don't scorn a pair of bed-socks. They make all the difference and save piling on extra blankets.

Have at least one hot water bottle in the house (two are better!). A visitor arriving off the train in the middle of a wintry night is sure to appreciate the comfort of a hot water bottle. Do not use very hot water. Not only is it bad for the rubber, but is not good for the circulation either. —M.M.S.



What kind of world will your children inherit?

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Flight From Nome

Continued from page 13

didn't strike it one season, you worked to get a grubstake for the next. You swamped out saloons; you took a pearl diving job in a beanery; and if you were big and tough, you got a bouncer's job and tossed the trouble-makers into the cold, starry night.

Danny thought, Balto led a team that carried serum to Nome while the world watched. I was going to run out to Central Park when we landed at New York and see his statue. Forgot about it. And during the last epidemic Jack Jefford, driving in from the airport said, "Drive by the hospital, I brought some serum." Today it's as simple as that.

Usually on this part of the run, Joe Lynch tuned in a name band, or one or the other would fly while his companion caught up on his reading. Tonight there was no fellowship, no horsing around. Joe contacted McGrath and Galena. There were passengers at both points, but there wasn't a chance to land.

WHEN the mountains came over the rim of the world, Danny noticed that the clouds were piling up. The warm front was moving in. Joe checked the weather and Danny took over for awhile. It was clear at Farewell, this side of the range, but very cold. But that could change in a hurry, Danny knew. Occasional snow flurries at Anchorage, but planes were coming in Merrill Field reported. Clear at Talkeetna, seventy-five miles north. Clear at Cold Deck.

Danny climbed above the clouds to avoid ice. Two lumps of dull silver above the clouds to the left and far ahead, were Mount McKinley, 20,300 feet, and Foraker, 17,500. He liked to know exactly where they were.

Again Joe made a check. Farewell, ceiling 3,000 feet, visibility seven miles. It had stopped snowing at Anchorage, but it looked as if it might start again. It was spitting ice particles at Cold Deck and Talkeetna.

Danny thought, if I had a load of bombs, I'd keep going. If my payload was people, I'd set her down at Farewell and put 'em to bed. He waited for Joe to say, "We'll call it a day, Danny," and start letting her down. He said nothing, and after several minutes he turned his head slightly and waited, as if expecting a comment.

None came, so he gazed straight ahead, his face betraying no hint of his inward emotions. This might be the build-up to an awful let-down, but Danny wasn't elated. He wouldn't be elated even if the situation scared hell out of Joe and they skinned safely by disaster. He didn't want to see Joe humble and contrite. What he wanted was the old guy who used to slap him on the back and ask, "Do you think pilots will ever be anything more than glorified truck drivers?" The old, down-to-earth Joe.

Joe took over and tried to climb above the thick weather ahead. In a few minutes they were buried in instrument weather. The de-icers were in operation and ice fragments kept rattling along the sides of the plane. Joe said, "Better bring the log up to date."

The AAA, in addition to required records, kept a log of each trip. Already some of the early-day flights were stirring reading. Danny made the

usual entries, then made his way back and asked the passengers to sign the book. Someone asked, "Are we on time?" But Danny made it a point not to hear them. If he admitted they were on time, then most of the passengers would calculate their time of arrival, and if Joe couldn't set her down, they'd guess the reason.

The Alaskan passengers were different from the passengers flying Outside. They often checked on the weather, knew the extra margin of fuel a plane carried on different flights, and could make a fair estimate of the time a plane could remain aloft.

BUTCH had napped, but he was awake and restless. Old Man Kent was nodding. Remke was sprawled out on cargo, sound asleep. Edith Dowling smiled faintly, then was suddenly very sober. She turned her head away from the others. Danny sat down beside Maureen and whispered, "Find out if she's in labor."

"O.K.," she answered. "What's it like at Anchorage?"

"Planes have been coming in," Danny answered, and she knew that he was evading a direct reply.

They passed the log book from one to another and when it came to Old Man Kent's turn, he muttered, "Can't seem to steady my hand. Never was much of a penman." He scrawled his name. "Log book! Reminds me of the trips Outside I made with Dynamite Johnny O'Brien. There was a man! He'd make a landing in mighty foul weather. He'd have a rabbit's foot in one pocket and a rosary in the other, and he'd be cussin' like as not, but he'd make it. Oh I knew 'em all in my time, Jack London . . ." He nodded, then jerked up his head. "Dynamite Johnny and the Old Vic—there was a winning pair." His expression became suddenly vacant, as if his face muscles were tired of portraying emotions. His head nodded and for a moment it was still except for the muffled boom of the motors and the rattle of ice thrown from the propellers. Beneath them gaunt peaks paraded in ghostly formations.

The log book came to Big Kate and she signed it without a word and leaned across the cargo and gave it to Mrs. Dowling. She signed the book quickly and returned it. Big Kate said, "If there's anything that I can do . . .?"

"Thank you, we must be almost there. My ears have been hurting too, and we must be crossing the mountains," Edith Dowling said. "I'm . . . O.K., I . . . guess."

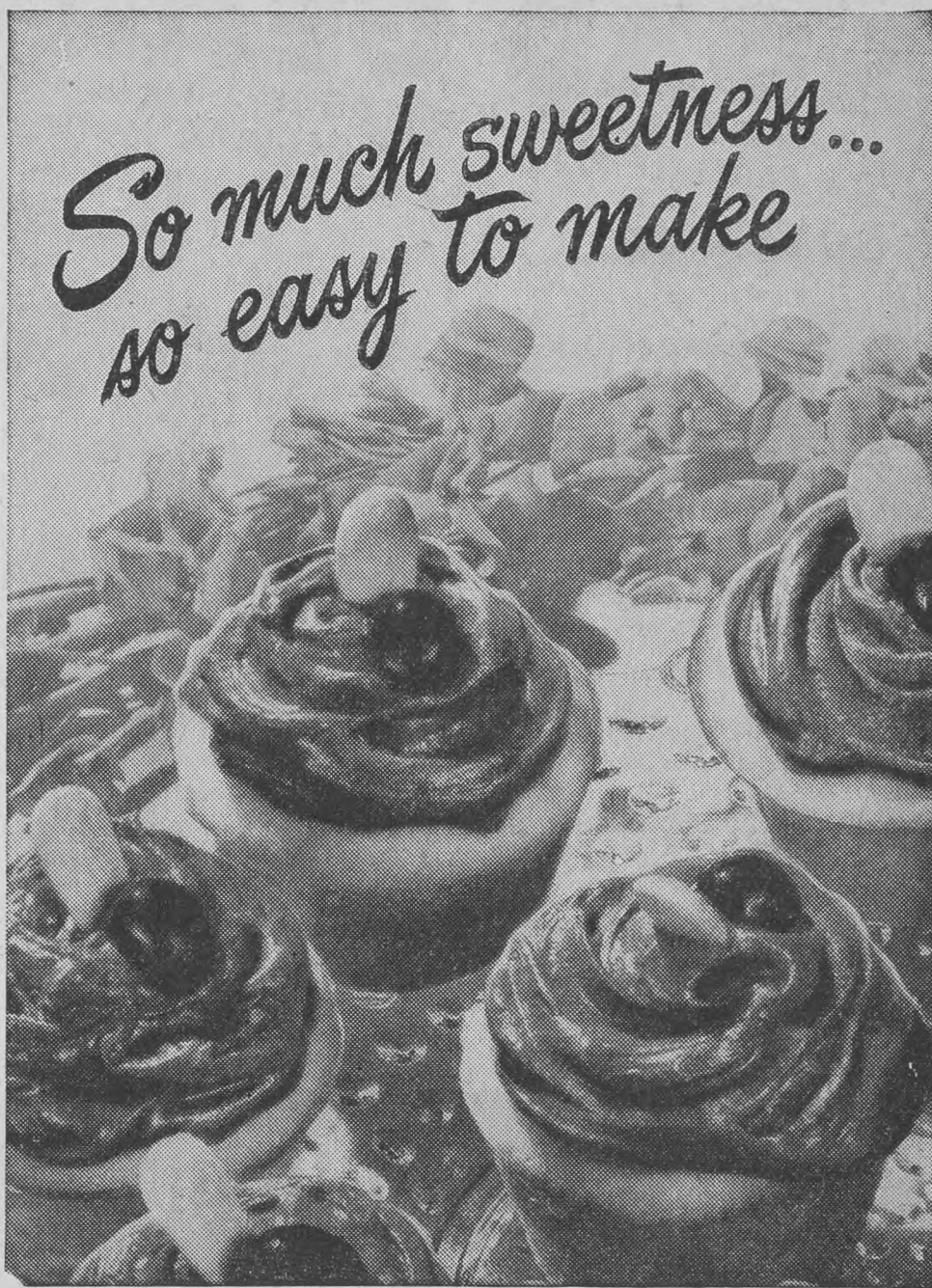
Big Kate passed the book to Chuck Martin, and returned to her seat. So many times in her life, she remembered, she had faced emergencies. She looked at her watch, and guessed that they would land within an hour, even allowing for adverse winds, if there were any.

Danny sat down beside Honey Martin and opened the log book. "We take 'em in order. You're last."

The girl signed the book and asked, "Where can I stop at Anchorage, this time of night?"

"The room situation is tough," Danny answered. "Joe and I bunk together. Maureen will stay with a friend. Did you radio the hotels?"

"Yes. No reservations," she answered. "If you can think of anything, please let me know. I'll sit up in a chair if I have to." She looked older



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2 cups sifted all-purpose flour	2 eggs
2 teaspoons Magic Baking Powder	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk
1 teaspoon salt	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup shortening	Chocolate Frosting
1 cup sugar	10-12 halved maraschino cherries

10-12 almond nut meats

Sift dry ingredients together. Cream together shortening and sugar; mix well. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Add milk and flour alternately to creamed mixture. Add vanilla extract. Bake in greased cup cake pans in 375°F oven, 20 minutes. Cool, top cakes with frosting. Garnish with cherries and nut meats. Makes 10-12.

CHOCOLATE FROSTING

1 unbeaten egg white	3 tablespoons cold water
$\frac{7}{8}$ cup granulated sugar	$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon flavoring
$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon Magic Baking Powder	$1\frac{1}{2}$ squares unsweetened chocolate

Place all ingredients except unsweetened chocolate, flavoring and baking powder in top of double boiler. Place over boiling water and beat with beater for 5 minutes, add melted unsweetened chocolate and beat for 2 minutes. Remove from heat, add flavoring and baking powder, beat again, and spread on cake.

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than her twenty-two years and Danny realized that she must be desperately tired. A few hours ago, at Nome, she had seemed fresh and buoyant.

As she turned toward Danny, her eyes met Chuck's. She saw understanding and sympathy in them, and suddenly she was proud and defiant and no longer tired and worried. Danny went over and sat down beside Father Carney. "The Martins aren't of your faith, Father," he said, "and so perhaps you aren't familiar with the case. Perhaps nothing can be done, but . . . Chuck is an old friend, and I hate to see him miserable."

"Chuck is a solid rock," Father Carney answered, "and I'm afraid that his wife has never felt the need of a rock. In this life, Danny, we are so much happier when we need someone, or someone needs us. Chuck has never, I'm afraid, convinced his wife that he really needs her. He is so adequate in every respect. And she has never felt the need of him. Why should she when there were handsome, romantic young fellows to spoil her, to serve her from the day she stepped from a plane to tundra?" He sighed. "There is so much to be done in the world, and so little time in which to do it."

Danny went up front, put the log book away, and took his place. Joe's expression was serious, and Danny thought, he's had a bad weather report. He said nothing but waited for orders. Presently Joe began taking her down, but he didn't speak for some time, then he said, "If you spot a break in the overcast, let me know."

"Check," Danny answered. Their altitude was one thousand. "What does the tower say about the weather?" he asked.

"The field's socked in," he answered, "but it clears for a few minutes at a time—clears enough to set her down, or—has been."

"What about Farewell?"

"Still clear there. I'll save enough fuel to go back over the mountains," Joe said confidently.

Danny thought. The payload is people, not bombs and I'd hightail it for Farewell now. He gazed steadily downward. Sometimes he couldn't see the wing tips, but again there were several hundred yards of visibility, then they'd move into the ice fog again and the props would throw ice at them. Once he thought he saw a faint, red stain below. That would be

a red neon sign in Anchorage. Maybe the tavern where he was going to buy Jack Jefford and Bill Hanson a drink this very night. "Was" is right, he thought, they've put King Chris to bed and are ready for their own bunks by now.

He heard Farewell reporting it was snowing lightly, but there was ample visibility. I'd get over those mountains, Danny thought. This weather hasn't heard that Lucky Lynch is flying the Malemute tonight. Still, to be fair, Anchorage might clear and Farewell be socked in. He had a chance to make the right decision at Farewell, but he thought he was lucky. It may hold at that. Brother, I hope so.

COLD DECK came in to let them know it was snowing occasionally there. It was Nancy's voice and Danny relished the swifter cadence of his heart. A most noble emotion, Daniel, old son, he thought without trying to be funny.

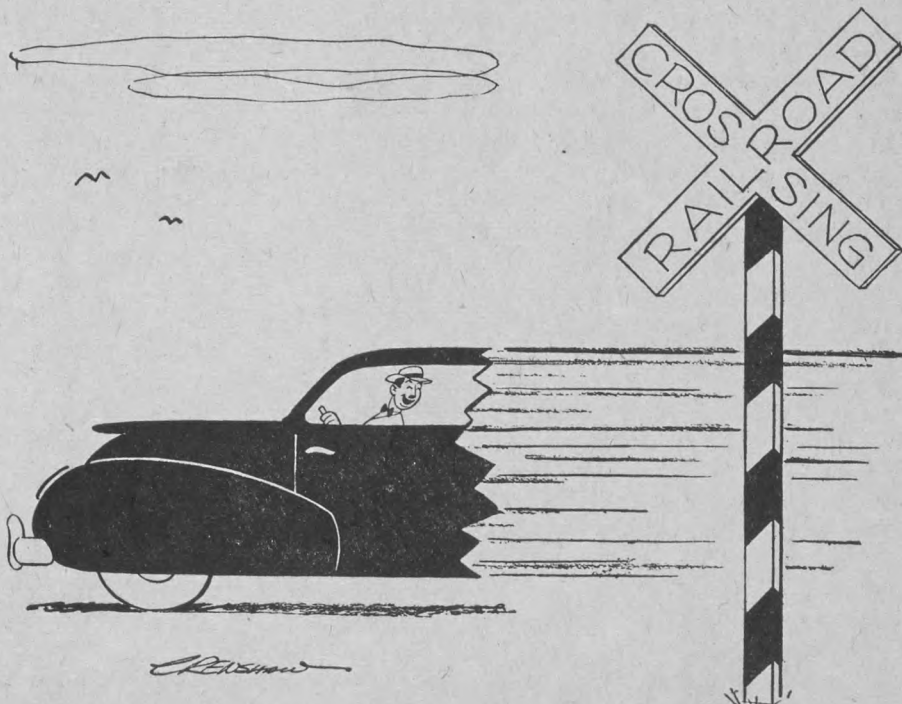
Then Minchumina came in with a weather report. The CAA people are beginning to worry, Danny thought. Well, each station had the complete weather picture.

Back and forth they flew on the range, getting down at times to 200 feet, then climbing to a safer level. Danny remembered the times he had flown that low, got under the ceiling, oriented himself by the town's layout, then followed the road down to the field. But not with a DC3, nor with passengers, as a rule.

In his own mind, he reviewed Joe's alternatives. Chances are coming down in the Anchorage area, they wouldn't hit a level spot. There was too much surrounding country. They might land on a Cook's Inlet tideflat where they'd probably drown if they didn't smother in the ooze before the incoming tide.

What did that leave? Not much. There were a lot of big lakes in the Cold Deck area, frozen deep—capable of receiving a bomber—but there were ridges, too, and stands of timber.

The lakes, of course, would be covered with snow. You'd have to keep your wheels up and land on the Malemute's belly. You'd lose your props, sure. You might lose both motors, but chances are the fuselage would hang together and no one would be seriously hurt. But it was no sort of landing for Edith Dowling, nor for Mary McGee, with Butch in her arms. You could pretty well figure



"Didn't think we'd make it, did you, honey?"

the stork would say, "I've chased you all the way from Nome, and enough is enough. Here you are."

"O.K.," Joe said, suddenly savage, "you've figured it all out, haven't you? Well . . . out with it."

"I've figured out nothing that's worth much—nothing that hasn't already come into your mind," Danny answered. "I think the passengers may be worrying. Most of them know you can't set her down."

"Go in and reassure them," Joe answered. "Wait! Have you thought about trying one of the lakes up Cold Deck way?"

"Yeah, and I thought of the ridges, too," Danny answered.

The instant he closed the door behind him, the eyes of every passenger were on his face. His cheerful expression and matter-of-fact attitude might have decided some, but not Father Carney, Maureen, Big Kate, nor Chuck Martin. He lightly mentioned head winds and a detour to avoid some particularly stormy weather areas.

He said something cheerful to Mary McGee. She was getting air sick, and Butch was fretful. She couldn't seem to get him to sleep soundly.

Honey's eyes followed Danny up and down the plane, then as he sat down beside Chuck, she assumed her pose of cold boredom.

"She's pretty," Chuck said quietly to Danny, "even when her face is as cold as marble." Danny nodded, because it was true. Chuck lowered his voice. "You aren't fooling me, Danny. Joe can't set her down and fuel's low."

"It adds up to just about that," Danny admitted.

"Father Carney knows it. He's been praying in his quiet way, though few would guess it. He's the last one to pray loudly and scare people green," Chuck said. "I guess the only thing to do is wait. Joe's got her throttled down to stretch the fuel, I can tell that by the sound of the motors."

"You've flown too damned much," Danny said. "You're too blasted smart. I'll laugh lightly, and you laugh lightly and maybe we'll manage to fool some of 'em, anyhow."

That brought a grin to Chuck's face, and for some reason, Danny laughed. Maureen, who wasn't deceived in the slightest, smiled too.

OLD Man Kent motioned to Danny. "They're taking me Outside to cure me, you know. I'll be back. I've been sitting here thinking and planning." His face was bright with hope. Dullness left his eyes, and they grew bright—abnormally bright, like a light bulb carrying too much current. "You don't want to be a pilot all your life. Now why not grubstake me next spring? I know of a creek that hasn't been prospected rightly. They never got down to the true bedrock. Only the false bedrock."

"That happens," Danny agreed.

"Grubstake me, and I'll take enough money out to last us our lifetime," Old Man Kent said. "My luck's due to change. I know what I'm talking about. I've got a lifetime's experience behind me. I knew 'em all, and picked up pointers from each—Tex Rickard, Jack London. He put me in a book, once. Then there was Spieler Kelly and the Ragtime Kid . . ." His voice grew dreamy, his eyes foggy, but he straightened up with an effort. "Think that grubstake deal over, Danny, you

don't want to pilot a plane all your life. You might get killed."

"I'll think it over," Danny agreed.

"Some mighty good friends of mine died in crack-ups," Old Man Kent said. "There was one who went out hunting a lost plane against his better judgment. He figured he was down somewhere and would show up in time. He wanted to wait until the weather got better, so he could see things. But they needled him, you might say. Questioned his courage. The lost plane came in when the weather got better. He never did. They found him in his wrecked plane. Don't stretch your luck, Danny."

That isn't the half of it, brother, Danny thought. He went over to Edith Dowling and she smiled faintly. "My ears don't hurt," she said. "We must be trying to land. I think I know the trouble." He knew that she realized the situation, now. "I've said a little prayer, Danny. I suppose, if our luck is all bad, it . . . it . . . is instant."

"Oh, it isn't coming to that," Danny insisted. "But if it did? Well I had a dream once. Realistic. And it happened instantly. You just didn't know. Only the pilots knew that it was coming, and the danger didn't have a chance to really register."

"I wanted to go in three days ago," she said, "but Hank insisted that I wait for the Malemute. He said it was a lucky plane."

"I'm betting that it is," Danny replied. "Let's talk of something more sensible. What about Hank giving AAA the job of freighting his furs this season? Fly 'em all the way to New York, via AAA and connecting lines and hit the best markets?"

Father Carney thought, he's putting Edith Dowling at ease, bless him. Then he hastily made his way to Mary McGee's side. She was air sick and needed one of the paper containers. He gave it to her then took Butch from her arms. He wasn't exactly spoiled, but Butch in his present mood wanted his mother. He began crying and Father Carney looked helplessly about.

"Let me hold him, Father," Big Kate said. "I hope his mother won't mind."

"I know she won't," Father Carney answered.

"Possibly you don't realize it, Father," Big Kate said, "but the chips are down. The fuel supply must be very low. I'm thinking that if there're things to be done—things required by your faith, that you'd better be about it. If I intruded, I'm sorry."

"I have realized the situation, and have prayed," Father Carney replied. "Is . . . is there anything that I can do for you?"

"My code has always been—never welch on a deal, never whimper," Big Kate answered. "And I wouldn't run crying to Him now. Oh, I know that He is a just God, but my record is bad . . ."

"I recall a time when a small-pox epidemic broke out on one of the creeks," Father Carney said thoughtfully. "It was the oriental type and men died swiftly. In the dead of winter, Big Kate, as she is known, hitched up her dog team, mushed over a hundred miles and spent two months nursing them. As the miners were broke, she paid all expenses out of her own purse." He smiled faintly.

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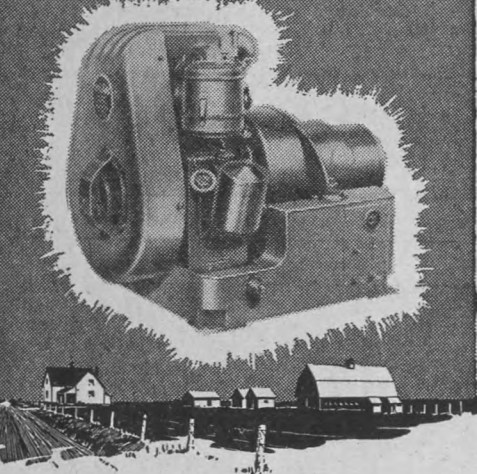
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"Certainly one with my many shortcomings and failures would never cast a stone."

"Oh Big Kate wasn't so generous that time, Father," she said. "You can't get blood out of a turnip, as the saying goes. But *you* have no stains on your record. The countless times you've gone into vile weather to comfort the dying. No, Father, it would be a low grade sort of Heaven if there hasn't been a special place reserved for you on the Lord's right."

"There was the time Slim Kerry was dying," Father Carney said sadly. "He sent for me. I couldn't... or rather, didn't, get beyond my own door. He died without the last sacrament. That has troubled me sorely."

"Slim Kerry was a no-good bum. You had a raging fever, temperature around a hundred and four, and it was thirty below outside," Big Kate said. "You might have died. Think of the good you've done since."

"But if I'd have summoned just a little more fortitude," Father Carney said, "I might have..."

"No, it wasn't His will that night," Big Kate argued. "In our way, we are authorities on evil. But you're an authority on good, as well. I'm not fit to breathe the same air, Father. Nor is anyone else, except this baby."

"There was the stagestruck girl who caught a steamer for Nome. Her mother wrote the United States marshal, who turned the letter over to Big Kate, at whose resort the girl was singing and dancing. Big Kate shipped her home at her own expense."

BIG KATE shrugged her shoulders and thought, What the hell. She said, "It'll take more than a trivial thing like that to balance the scale. I robbed them blind. I watered the whiskey..."

"When the whiskey supply was low and the first steamer into Nome was icebound," Father Carney said. "And when they were blind drunk, you pinched their pokes—and returned them to them intact when they had sobered up."

Kate twitched, as a woman does when she is losing an argument. "We'll say no more about it. Besides, Butch is getting fretful. And I shall have the last word, too, which is a woman's right. Who was it that shot Horse Tail Rapids—the only man who ever attempted it? Father Carney, because rival factions downriver were getting ready to settle a mining claim dispute with a sawed-off shotgun loaded with buckshot. And shooting the rapids was the only way he could get there in time."

She thought. We can't stay up much longer. Danny is comforting Edith Dowling. I wish I could quiet Butch. Huh. Honey Martin is beginning to realize that her number is up.

Honey had grown progressively paler as she sensed that something was wrong. Twice she had glanced quickly at her husband's face to learn something of his thoughts. But Chuck, who knew his wife better than she knew him because he had worked hard at it, sensed her probable action and maintained a poker face.

She unfastened her seat belt and made her way to her overnight bag, secured with freight. It was a pitiful effort to save face in a search for comfort. She fumbled with the straps, and Chuck asked, "Want your bag?"

"Yes, I've a splitting headache and thought I'd take something," she said.

He opened the bag and gave her the aspirin bottle. "I'll get you some water," he said, closing the bag. "Better fasten your seat belt while I'm gone. It's rough in spots. Mary is sicker'n a dog."

It was a generous move on his part to make it easy for her to sit beside him and keep her precious dignity. He brought the water and she took two tablets. Usually she took four as she was a member of the school of self-doctors that believed if two was a dose, twice as much would prove doubly effective.

The cold, set expression was gone from her face, and it seemed to him that she was growing smaller as her fear increased. Pride died slowly, but a series of bumps killed it. "You've always told me the truth, Chuck," she said, "and I want it now. Are we going to be—killed?"

He thought, if I had kidded her more, we might have made a go of it. Engineers are too damned factual to be romantic. They know that two and two add up to four. They can't conceive the total could be three or five. He said, "Yes, there's a chance. But you won't know it! It'll happen fast." The engineer was calculating. He wasn't kidding himself nor her, because you can't deny facts. "On the other hand, two of the best Arctic pilots in the North are up front. That is, Danny will be up there, too, when it is landing time."



"Stacey hasn't much confidence in himself."

She was quiet a long time. "It is so hard to be brave, to stand alone, Chuck," she said. "I'd like to cry a little, then cling to you and wait."

"Don't cry," he said. "It might add to the others' burden. But—cling." He leaned closer to her.

"I think for the first time in my life, Chuck, I've needed you. You made the mistake of wanting me to stand on my own feet. The family made the same mistake. I'm the type that needs someone and hasn't realized it. I'm not a very noble soul," she confessed.

"But you are," he argued. "And you're finding your true worth. But—cling. What do you care if others notice?"

"Big Kate is a bad woman," she said. "She knows she may be killed any instant. But she's not asking Father Carney to hear a confession of her sins. She's not running to God because she's scared stiff. I've prayed,

but—I'm not running to you, Chuck. I'm not clinging. But..."

"But... what?"

"I want to be by your side. I guess when—it happens," she explained. Her fingers touched his wrist, then his arm and tightened. "You're hard, like a rock. You don't shake. You aren't shaking now. And you've always been so tender toward me. I want you to know I've just realized it. Look, Butch is twisting and squirming. He can't sleep. Do you suppose that babies sense things like this?"

"Hell no!"

"Look, she's swaying back and forth, singing softly," Honey said. "Brahms' Lullaby." She looked at Chuck. "But how would she know it?"

"She married a guy who wasn't much back in the Dawson days," Chuck answered. "He took her home, and the family learned she'd danced in Dawson and sold liquor on a percentage basis. They made him kick her out. As I said, he wasn't much of a guy. She had a son. She was afraid some stuffed shirt of a judge would take the baby away from her, so she disappeared. It was a couple of years before she showed up in the gold camps again. Chances are she learned a lullaby or two then. Her son was a good man. He was never ashamed of his mother. That's about all there is to it."

Kate's voice drifted like a soft breeze throughout the plane. "Go to sleep, close thy eyes, thou shall seek paradise..."

Damn that paradise part, Danny thought. His eyes shifted from face to face. Not one showed fear.

OLD Man Kent lifted his head from daydreaming, and listened. "Like I said, in the old days she sang alto. It made a man want to cry, but it sorta relaxed him, too. It brought many an ounce of dust to whoever she was working for, too. Sometimes they'd give her a nugget shower—threw 'em on the stage by the handful. But that was in the old days—before planes. Oh, I knew 'em all, Jack London... he put me in a book."

"Yeah, I know he did, Dad," Pete Remke said.

"Then later came the planes, Ben Eielson, Croson and the others, oh I knew 'em..."

"Listen," Remke whispered, "to that song."

Danny climbed over feet and legs, squeezed Maureen's shoulder in passing, and went on up front, closing the door behind him. He looked at the gauges as he strapped himself into the seat. "How're the passengers?" Joe asked.

Danny didn't answer, and Joe said, hotly, "I asked you a question, in the line of duty, and I want an answer. How're the passengers?"

Danny turned slowly. "Listen, Joe, go back and look 'em over. You've seen how soldiers aloft, with guns in their hands faced death? I said, with guns in their hands. Go back there and see how the mine-run American, without weapons in his hands, with nothing but hope and faith in you and me, face death. You'll get what I've been driving at. You'll get why I've resented your leaning on your luck and all that."

"You have a dream and you think that was a warning of what was com-

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ing on this particular flight from Nome?" Joe angrily demanded. "Nuts!"

"No, I don't think that," Danny answered. "I've seen you getting into careless habits. And you know damned well why I've strung along with you all these years, when I could have had a plane of my own. Or you should. I wanted to contribute everything I had, to what you already had and insure your being the best damned pilot in the North, if not in the world. I figure Maureen rated no less. I figure I'm entitled to some consideration at your hands, too. Now about the dream—that developed from worrying over your carelessness. Now you get the hell back there and look over your passengers."

"Aren't you forgetting who you're talking to?"

"Not for a split second," Danny answered. "Right now, the passengers know nothing of our feud, but they're going to unless you do as I'm telling you. I'll sock you into submission and throw you back, and we'll let the automatic pilot do the job. At least it never gets a swelled head."

"I think you're crazy," Joe answered. "But I'm going back because a mental case aloft takes diplomacy."

He went back, and in a minute or

reading, and objecting to my immediate flight plan." She leaned down quickly and kissed his cheek. It was rough to her lips, but cool.

The altitude was a thousand feet—safe enough in a rolling country—when Ballard's voice broke in again. "Nice going, old son, you'll pass over my cabin in . . . You're over it now." He checked the air speed with his known position and set his course. This was old bush stuff.

The clouds were pressing in on all sides, spitting ice particles. The wing tips were no longer visible, then suddenly it was lighter overhead and he knew the overcast was so thin the moon was trying to shine through.

He banked so suddenly it must have thrown the passengers about and given Joe Lynch a scare. Sometimes these thin spots meant a hole all the way to the ground. He was trying to get back to it. It was dark again, but as he circled, it suddenly grew light. He threw on the landing lights and gazed intently downward. Nothing but swirling snow, then at three hundred feet he saw an irregular line. That would be timber on the narrow island on the easterly side of the lake.

Now he was really under the ceiling and he could see the glare as the snow reflected the landing lights. He



"We never know WHAT to expect since Joe started studying magic."

two, Maureen came. She put her hands against the door jambs and leaned forward until her head was even with her brother's. He lifted his earphones. She asked, "You had a showdown?"

"He went back to reassure the passengers," he answered.

"Don't kid me, Danny," she said. "I know Joe and you too well."

"What you don't know, won't hurt you. Just a minute. I've contacted Nancy at Cold Deck. You've a fix on us, Nancy? Ask Fred Ballard to come in if he hears the motors."

Fred was a ham operator and he came in without being asked. "You're southwest of us, Danny. There's a twenty-five mile west wind here. Ceiling, fifty feet. Visibility uncertain. It's snowing, but not too bad. Over."

"Roger on that, Fred."

Maureen thought, Danny's going to set her down on the first lake. That would be Lake Mansfield, seven miles wide and nine long. He's going to take the responsibility and take the rap if there's a bad crack-up and investigation. I'm hanged if I'm going to let him do it. He said, grinning, "Beat it, before Joe thinks we're plotting against him. And don't start mind

heard Joe working on the door, which unaccountably, or perhaps it was accountable, was stuck.

The snow below looked deep and drifted, because there were moments when the landing lights sent shadows darting ahead. Odd, swift shadows, like moving animals seeking cover. He called Cold Deck and asked, "Now what have you got? Over."

"Snowing and hardly any ceiling," Nancy answered. "I'm switching on the field lights. Are you coming in? Over."

"Stand by," he answered.

Then Joe Lynch was standing in the doorway, and reading the air speed. He wasn't giving advice, nor making a belated effort to take over. He just said, "Set her down when you're ready." And in that brief sentence accepted full responsibility. Danny let down the wheels.

The field was little more than twin, faint streaks where the rows of light pushed through the swirling flakes. Danny set her down with quite a jolt, because he couldn't see coming back in again and trying to find a field that was practically under his wheels. She ran almost to the end of the strip, then he turned her around and brought her

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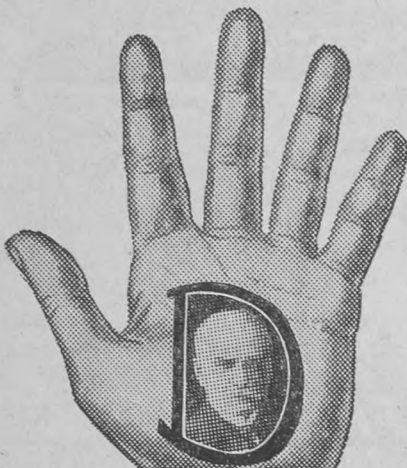
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to the huddle of cottages that marked the station and the CAA personnel's homes.

HE could see the lights coming on in the cottages. The women knew what this emergency landing meant—bedding down passengers on davenport and floors, building fires in emergency cabins, breaking out emergency rations for breakfast.

For several seconds after the motors stopped, Danny sat there waiting for the tension to wear off. It didn't wear off. He got up and followed Joe. The passengers were picking up their overnight bags and bunching around the door. Big Kate was still carrying Butch, who had napped briefly and was more optimistic about the future. He burped a couple of times, looked startled and beamed. His mother followed.

A man was helping them down the ladder, and pointing out the cottages they were to occupy. "You had better go to my place, Mrs. McGee," he said. "We've got a baby, too, and you'll find everything you need there. Mrs. Dowling, you'd better take the next cottage." He added realistically, "Stan's wife used to be a registered nurse."

He saw Chuck Martin and hesitated. He knew why the Martins were going Outside. "Put us anywhere," Chuck said. "What's the matter with the tent? It's small, got a good floor, and the heater will warm it up."

"Yes," Honey said, "the tent will be fine for us. Anything."

Farther Carney smiled happily.

"O.K., Martins, take the tent," the busy man agreed.

"Thanks, Larry," Chuck said. He broke the trail toward the tent, carrying Honey's overnight bag, and his own. He thought, happily, We faced death together. It shouldn't be too tough to face life from here on in.

Larry sent Big Kate to a small cabin and directed Father Carney to a cottage occupied by unmarried men.

Nancy came out and Danny said, "Hello." He put his arm around her and gave her a bear hug because he felt like it. "I hope we're here for a week," he said.

"You're bunking with me, Maureen," Nancy said. "And I hope you stay here for a week, but the darned weather is going to break in thirty-six hours."

Danny grinned. "A lot can happen in thirty-six hours," he said.

Old Man Kent was helped to the ground. He looked around, blinking his eyes. "Where's Cold Deck?" he asked.

"Oh, this is only the airstrip," Larry said. "The town's four miles from here."

"Cold Deck. I was here when the stampede started. Flapjack Meehan and Tubby Willows founded the camp. Oh, I knew 'em all. Jack London—he put me in a book. Did you know that? Yeah, I was right in there. And there's a cuss in Rex Beach's Iron Trail that I've got a stinking notion is me. Oh, I knew 'em all. They're taking me Outside to . . ."

"Come on, Dad," Remke said gently.

"S'long folks," Old Man Kent said. "They'll fix me up, and I'll be back break-up time." He waved his hand stiffly. "As the Frenchman says, Ah-

River. See you in the morning." He got in step with the deputy marshal. "Pete, it was a night like this that I dropped into Tex Rickard's place in Nome . . . Let's see what was I going to tell you? I can't seem to remember like I used to. A lot of 'em gone! Good men. God's noblemen. And I knew 'em . . . Tex Rickard, Jack London. He put me . . ." His voice trailed off in the distance.

Danny opened a compartment and took out the plane's wing covers. With Joe's help he put them on. They made the plane secure against possible gusts of wind, then went silently to the cabin assigned them. It had a double bed, and they had occupied it on several occasions. They undressed slowly, the tenseness of the flight still on them.

Danny was in bed first, then Joe came in, pulling the covers up to his

chin. Each twisted this way and that. They couldn't relax, couldn't sleep. Neither had ever had a closer shave. They each lit a cigarette, and flashes of the flight from Nome came before their eyes—Old Man Kent who lived in the past; Big Kate singing to Butch; the Martins drawing toward each other as the tanks emptied; and their own clash alone, up there in the pit.

Danny rolled over on his stomach and closed his eyes. There was a long silence, then he felt Joe stirring. Joe's hand came down with the hardest smack he had ever given him. It hit the old familiar spot, between his shoulder blades. "Danny," he exclaimed, "do you think plane pilots will ever be anything more than glorified truck drivers?"

THE END.

The Kingfisher

by DAN McCOWAN

The Greeks had a name for him.

SOME birds build their nests high in the trees, others place their cradles in low shrubs and a great many nests on the ground. Here in Canada three vastly different members of the feathered tribe nest underground, namely, the sand martin or bank swallow, the burrowing owl and the kingfisher.

The first named has weak feet, small claws and a tiny bill yet somehow succeeds in boring a horizontal shaft in the face of a hard sand bank, usually making a tunnel about four feet in length. The burrowing owl is not very fond of digging in the dirt and thus depends on an obliging gopher to provide a dug-out in which she may find a safe nesting place.

The kingfisher, furnished with a strong, stout bill, has a first-class pick with which to gouge out a deep and narrow cavity in the hard clay of a cut-bank. At the far end of this dark passage, which may be 10 or 12 feet long, a small chamber is scooped out and there the eggs are laid and the young birds hatched.

Kingfisher eggs, like those of almost all birds which nest in dark places, are white. The usual number in a clutch or setting is about six, although as many as a round dozen have been found in one hole. There is no nice soft downy or grassy nest in which the chicks may rest comfortably. Instead, they must sleep on a hard mattress formed of fish bones which before long give off a very nasty odor.

Fortunately birds have little or no sense of smell otherwise the young kingfishers would surely regard their birthplace as being somewhat foul. As it is the damp and ill-lighted nursery is poorly ventilated yet the inmates thrive well and in but a short time are able to forsake the dank dungeon and to live henceforth outdoors.

ALTHOUGH only one species of kingfisher is found in Canada there are few streams and lakes in this country on which the "watchman's rattle" cry of these birds may not be heard. All depend on fresh fish for food—these being caught by sudden head-long diving from a branch overhanging the water and at once swallowed holus-bolus or else carried home



The Kingfisher.

intact to feed the growing family in their earthy lodging. Minnows, small suckers and various tiddlers swimming in shallow pools form most common prey and the fresh water fishing season closes only when Jack Frost padlocks the ponds and creeks.

With the near approach of winter most of the feathered fishermen go south to a warmer zone but here and there throughout the inland provinces an occasional hardy individual may remain all the year through despite bitter frost and rude chill winds. One such robust bird of this breed spent all of last winter on Bow River at Canmore and from a short stretch of open water caught enough fish to keep himself alive and active.

In days of old the kingfisher was known as the halcyon and was thought to have control of the climate at one particular season of the year. The ancients believed that the birds laid their eggs and reared their broods in mid-winter. Also that the nests were placed on small rafts built for the purpose and floated well out to sea. The seven days before December 21, the shortest day in the year, were used in building the nest and the seven days after in hatching the eggs. During that critical fortnight the sea was supposed to remain calm and the sun to shine from a clear, blue sky. This was of course utter nonsense but we still speak of mild, sunny weather in mid-winter as halcyon days.

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—AUDREY McKIM.

The Magic Mountain

by MARY E. GRANNAN

THE mountain stood directly behind Rachel's house, on the other side of the creek. Rachel didn't know the mountain was magic, however, until the day she met Mitzi.

Mitzi is a cat. I thought she was just an ordinary black and white cat until Rachel told me differently. In fact, Rachel said, "I thought the same thing until the day I was playing hopscotch."

When I asked her what hopscotch had to do with it all, Rachel told me. She was playing hopscotch on the sidewalk in front of her house. It was the kind of hopscotch you play with a piece of green glass. She had been so good at the game, that she decided to see if she could play it backwards. So she turned and threw the green glass over her shoulder, and she had no sooner done so, than she heard a loud "Mieowo, mieowo."

She turned again, to find that she had hit a little strange cat in the eye with the green glass and she was crying. Rachel felt very sorry, and knelt down beside the little cat and told her so. But Mitzi still cried and said that didn't help her eye.

"But I can help your eye," said Rachel. "You come into the house with me and I'll bathe it with borax."

"Alright," said Mitzi, because that was the little cat's name.

While they were waiting for the sore eye to get better, Rachel asked Mitzi where she came from. But Mitzi grew strangely still and walked proudly out of the house and sat down in the sun. Rachel went to wash the borax from her hands, and as she turned them over to soap them, she discovered that her hands were covered with silver dust.

She ran to her mother in great excitement. "Look, Mum, look!" she cried, "Silver dust on my hands. This kitten is magic. Where do you suppose she came from?"

"Well Rachel," said Mother. "I think the only way to find that out is to keep a very close watch on Mitzi. Don't let her see you watching her, just watch."

So Rachel didn't let Mitzi out of her sight all morning. In the early afternoon, Mitzi walked toward the creek back of the house. She leaped to the



January days are Jack Frost days. How busy he has been since he appeared this fall and turned our leaves to colors of red and yellow and orange. Now he is hunting out your toes and fingers, ready to take a nip at them in spite of all the warm clothes you wear to hide from him. He's a fine painter too, as you will see when you look at those pictures of leaves and branches and ferns that he sketches on your window. How important he must feel when with one swift sweep he drapes the world in beautiful hoar frost, and how angry he must be when the sun laughs and makes his hoar frost disappear.

Ann Sankey

first stepping stone . . . then to the second . . . and on the third she cried loudly, "Mieow . . . Mieow . . . Mieow."

There was a low rumble. Then it grew louder, and as it did, the side of the mountain across the creek opened. As Mitzi walked proudly through the great stone door, Rachel caught a glimpse of golden trees, silver cobblestones, and castles of shining pink sugar. Before she could really believe that she had seen what she had seen, the rumbling began again and the side of the mountain closed. Rachel dashed across the creek and pounded on the side of the mountain, calling as she did, "Mitzi! Mitzi! Let me in. Let me in." No one answered her.

She ran to her mother. That lady was just as surprised about the whole thing as was Rachel. When the little girl told her exactly what happened, her mother said, "Rachel, I think those three mieows on the third stepping stone is the key to the mountain side. Why don't you try it anyway?"

Rachel raced down to the creek again. She mieowed three times on the third stepping stone, and the mountain opened as before, and Rachel went into the magic land. When Mitzi saw her she laughed merrily.

"You are such a smart little girl, Rachel, I think I'll go home with you and live in your house forever more." And she did, and although Rachel has mieowed and mieowed in the creek, the magic mountain has never opened its doors to her, since that magic day that she met Mitzi.

An Indoor Track Meet

YOU can go through the motions of an outdoor field day right in your own home and have a lot of fun over it all.

Stage a party for your sports-loving pals and call it an "Indoor Track Meet." Divide the guests up into two groups, the "reds" and "blues." Appoint a captain for each group. You will also need an official who acts as starter, judge, and clerk of the course. That may be you.

The method of scoring should be as follows: Ten points for first place, and five for second. There should be at

least three members to each team, but the more the merrier. Remember, however, that athletes are hungry as wolves after a sports meet so have a good hearty lunch ready and be prepared to see it disappear.

Here are a number of events that will make your track meet a successful one.

Event 1. Kicking for form. Each contestant tries to kick a rubber ball nearest to a designated spot. The distance is measured with a ruler and the two closest win the stipulated number of points for their team.

Event 2. Discus throw. Toss a playing card for distance.

Event 3. High jump. The group captain names his tallest and his shortest player. The winning couple are those having the greatest difference in height.

Event 4. Shot put. Using the proper technique of shot-putting, throw a large, inflated paper bag for distance.

Event 5. Relay race. Contestants must toss or bounce a tennis ball into a dish pan, run and pick up the ball from the pan and hand it to the next team player. If the throw misses the pan the player of course must go and retrieve the ball and try again.

Event 6. Javelin throw. Equipment is a large feather which must be thrown in a similar manner to a javelin.

Event 7. Sprint event. Contestants are supplied with two magazines each. They are told to race across the room stepping only on magazines as they do so. They must touch the opposite wall and return to the starting line. Time each contestant separately, or break up into two heats with a final race if you have not sufficient room to run all competitors at once.

Event 8. Broad jump. By putting one foot in front of the other so that heel touches toe, contestants see who can cross the room in the fewest steps (the biggest feet will win this event).

Event 9. Marathon. A heel and toe race from front room wall to kitchen wall. Time each contestant.

Event 10. Hop, step, and jump. Each contestant takes three steps without allowing his hands to touch the floor. Measure the distance covered.

After the points are totalled up, all members of the winning team should be awarded a "rest period." The losers then serve the lunch. The number one star athlete of the meet may be awarded a special prize.

The more particular you are about having each contestant conform to regulations, the more exciting your indoor track meet will be. See that all competitors perform their stunts in a proper manner even though they seem to be doubled up with laughter. If you wish to prolong the evening's fun, have a break after event number five and fill in with some party stunts or a musical program.—Walter King.

Domestic Science Game

BOYS with pencil in hand, line up facing the girls, each of whom holds a card. At the starting signal, each boy writes down on his partner's card all the household articles he can think of beginning with the letter A. After one minute the whistle is blown and each boy moves on to the next girl and begins writing all the articles he can think of beginning with B. The games continues, the boys moving on to the next girl with the next letter. The girl with the longest list is the winner.

Girls may use the same method, except that they will write down farm implements and tools instead of household articles.



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VOL. LXVIII WINNIPEG, JANUARY, 1949 No. 1

New Year's Day - 1949

New Year is a time for stock-taking and for looking ahead. The year just ended has been dominated throughout by one great anxiety, the fear of open conflict on the Berlin front. The closing month has seen some relaxation of tension. The astounding Anglo-American air lift has made a visible impression on the countries beyond the Iron Curtain, and stiffened the morale of our supporters in Germany. On both sides there is a more sober appreciation of the opponent's determination not to retreat. On the Allied side there seems to be an acceptance of the East-West rivalry as a chronic malady in spite of which there may be a general, if slow, recovery. As good an authority as President Truman declares that among our adversaries there are men who would welcome the termination of the cold war. People speak of a shooting war as something more remote.

The closing year has underlined the economic interdependence of the world, and dependence on American leadership. Much of the old year was disturbed by the wrangle between the American president and a hostile legislature, which was succeeded by pre-election propaganda, not always re-assuring. The outcome of the election set many fears at rest. With the party of Cordell Hull still in power, there is a brighter hope that the special agencies created to promote international trade and finance will have a better opportunity to achieve their intended purpose. Perhaps political considerations will have less weight in distributing American aid. International leadership is a new art in the United States. It is too much to expect the same performance that took generations of training for Britons to achieve. But there are favorable signs and the world may go more hopefully into the New Year than it did a year ago today.

A Fair Price For Bread

Canadians view with some concern the possible existence of a bread combine which keeps the price of that staple artificially high in the three western provinces. It is alleged that three baking groups, which together make about three-quarters of the bread baked in the West, have conspired to enforce illegal price agreements. These agreements are said to have been in existence during the life of the W.P.T.B., and took the shape of uniform tenders for army bread contracts. When the government flour subsidy was discontinued the bakers were ready. There was a general and surprisingly uniform increase in price. Retailers who refused to come into line were coerced by the threat of having their supplies cut off, according to the report of the Combines Investigation Commission.

Evidence is still being taken as this issue goes to press. If the charges are substantiated The Guide will join with all right thinking people in condemning those concerned and in demanding a return to fair, competitive pricing. No practice has done so much to bring free enterprise into disrepute as hole-in-the-corner agreements which raise the price of the necessities of life beyond the point fair competition would establish. The demand for controls has its roots in the vague feeling that a considerable amount of this sort of thing exists.

The grain farmer has a peculiar reason for demanding a vigorous prosecution of the bread combine enquiry. He provides about 50 million bushels of wheat annually for processing into flour for domestic consumption. He is selling this wheat on today's market for 35 cents a bushel less than what he could get for it in export markets. In other words he is bonusing the domestic consumer to the tune of \$17 million annually, more or less as the spread

between Class I and Class II wheat expands or contracts. It would be a matter of deep chagrin to him to find out that a good-sized slice of this bonus is finding its way into the pockets of the bakers.

Grain farmers would like to have some assurance on this point. Better still, this subsidy, paid by one group in Canada for the benefit of all consumers, ought to be peremptorily stopped. It perpetrates the most monumental piece of economic injustice ever visited on any group in Canada. The resulting price increase would draw attention to fair bread prices. It would generate enough interest to make sure that the charges of illegal combination were thoroughly sifted.

Farm Tire Costs

Few people, even among those most closely concerned, realize the investment which the western farmers in these times have tied up in rubber tires. As mechanization proceeds, one implement after another is mounted on rubber. Stop any tractor farmer who is operating on a large scale and ask him how many tires he has on the place. Invariably he will have to do a lot of mental arithmetic. Almost without exception he comes out with an answer which surprises himself, and is still short of the whole truth. It is a common thing nowadays to find western farms with 50 to 60 tires of various kinds, representing an initial outlay of \$2,000 or more.

Looking a little further into this matter, one is convinced that some of this expense is avoidable. Most implements have only a seasonal use. Some are idle for eleven months of the year. Implement designers should give some thought to a standardization of tire sizes. Most farm machines would be well served by a 6.00x16 size. If tires were interchangeable a much smaller number would do the required work. The greatest wear on tires comes from excessive road speeds. Under standardization, tires strained by road trucking could be removed and placed on field implements where structural demands are lighter and the safety factor lower.

Machine designers can serve a useful turn to their patrons in this regard, but farmers may do a lot to hasten action. In purchasing new machines they may give thought to purchase without rubber equipment, in the hope of utilizing tires already in their possession. Frequently the choice between two makes is not pronounced. The implement which will utilize other tires most easily will get the nod. Under this sort of pressure manufacturers will adopt interchangeability for their own protection.

Oleo Ban Outlawed

Margarine is on its way. On December 15 the Supreme Court of Canada, by a five to two decision, found that the legislation under which its import and sale has been prohibited is unconstitutional.

The urban public accepted the judgment enthusiastically. Rural groups, whose members have a fuller appreciation of the economic outcome, are contemplating an appeal to the Privy Council. There are good grounds for it. The decision was not unanimous. The Chief Justice, as well as one of his associates, dissented. As the government decided to rely upon a decision of the Courts, it should have an opinion from the highest court that can be reached.

Conflicting opinions are entertained regarding the probable effect of the legalization of margarine on the dairy industry. Ontario's minister of agriculture is reported to have said that he sees no threat to the welfare of dairymen. Insofar as it affects farmers producing fresh milk for the urban milk sheds of populous Ontario he is probably right. With respect to producers operating on a small scale, men on marginal farms, or men selling churning cream as a sideline, the effect may be disastrous.

Nor will the benefit to consumers be as great as anticipated. Senator Euler and others like him, who have striven in season and out for the introduction of oleo, have in their zeal for converts freely predicted that oleo could be sold for half the price of butter. Canada Packers, who expect to be able to market oleo in quantity by the New Year, forecast a price of 25 cents below butter. The latter is now selling in Winnipeg for about 72 cents, which indi-

cates a competitive price of 47 cents for margarine. Already housewives are complaining that this is not what they were led to expect.

Another difficulty to develop will be widespread misrepresentation by some unscrupulous retailers, now able for the first time to get their hands on the substitute, who will sell it as butter at a price between these two levels. The hard hit dairyman is at least entitled to the fullest protection from this fringe of the trade. Governments, provincial and federal, must accord the strictest policing, and courts the most unrelenting severity, to prevent the rise of what is an open sore in the American provision trade.

There was always an element of protection for dairy farmers in the inception and maintenance of the oleo ban, however thinly disguised. It was a sop thrown to agriculture when Sir John A. and his successors on both sides of the House were assiduously applying the doctrine of protection to the whole range of industry. It was agriculture's tiny cut of the juicy pie artificially created at the expense of consumers. Urban Canada now declines to yield any share of that pie. It is aware that it can get a cheaper spread than butter and it wants it, even if it comes from tropical oils mostly from the dollar area.

What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. The farmers of Canada have an equal right to demand a lowering of their costs by a removal of artificial trade barriers. The agencies which worked so hard for the removal of the oleo ban ought in all fairness to proceed with the other half of the program.

A Matter Of Timing

From time to time new construction programs come before the public involving the expenditure of large sums of money. A case in point is the Trans-Canada highway. In the political conventions of last summer certain party adherents advocated the immediate commencement of extensive work on this highway, doubtless with an eye on votes where the money is to be spent.

A coast to coast highway would be a decided asset to this country. It would enhance our national pride, draw closer together the various provinces strung along its route and invigorate the towns touched by it. It would attract tourists, and to that extent be a self-liquidating project. But when it comes to immediate embarkation on expense of this nature The Guide finds itself singularly unenthusiastic, for reasons which appear fairly obvious to us.

After the great depression of the thirties, statesmen and economists said it must never happen again. They thereupon worked out with great care the theory of cyclical expenditure—heavy taxation and light governmental expenditure in flush times; reduced taxation and increased public works in hard times. By the judicious application of this principle, economists assure us the severity of depressions can be greatly reduced, and this belief has been quite generally instilled into the public mind.

About a year ago Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe informed a business group met in Ottawa, that the plans for the Trans-Canada highway were all committed to paper and had been carefully filed away for ready use when the appropriate moment arrived. Commencement of the project now, when labor is scarce and wages high, would draw labor away from essential private enterprise, raise the cost of the highway beyond all published estimates and make further trouble with our current inflationary spiral. The Guide agrees with him. But this is not to say that we prefer waiting for an army of unemployed to be mobilized into pick and shovel gangs. We never want to see that spectacle again. The highway should be built with a minimum of human labor and the most modern machinery, but on the best terms it represents a strain on Canada's labor force, now sufficiently extended.

If public confidence is to be maintained in the power of cyclical expenditure, if the public is to remain secure in the faith that economists have a weapon wherewith to combat the forces of a major depression, surely it is necessary that enterprises of this kind should be set aside as long as wages and the tempo of business remain at the present high level.